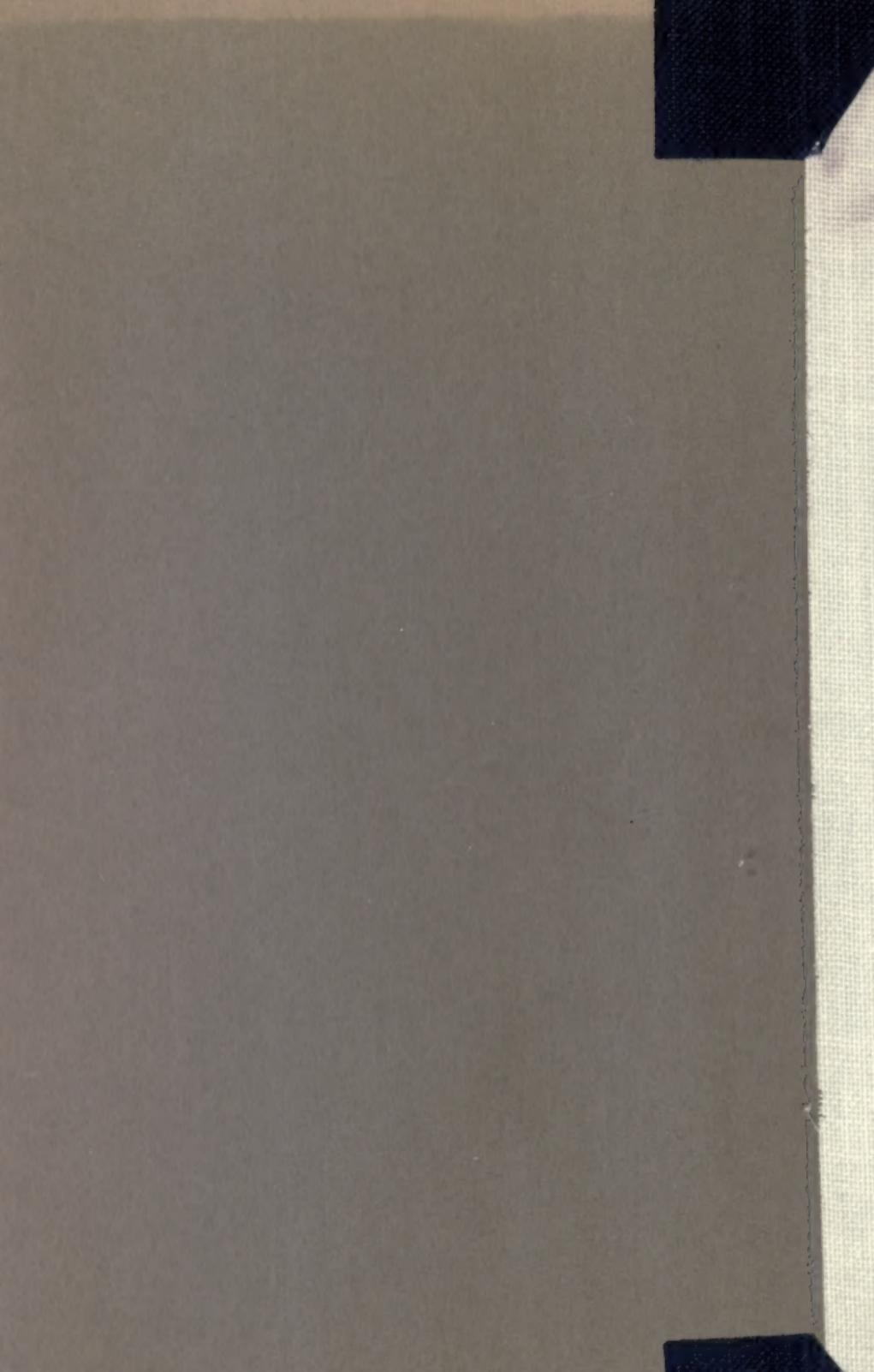


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# GUIDE TO DARTMOOR

NORTHERN & EASTERN SECTION

comprising:

TAVISTOCK, LYDFORD,

Okehampton & Sticklepath Districts.

AND

CHAGFORD, MORETON,

Lu. Leigh & Bovey Tracey Districts.

WIDE COMBE

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## FOREWORD.

Having purchased the remaining stock of Mr. Crossing's "GUIDE TO DARTMOOR," we have pleasure in offering the same to the lovers of Dartmoor in a more convenient form than previously issued, and it is hoped in the amended form it will prove much more practicable to the Rambler and the Tourist.

This volume comprises Parts 2 and 3, which covers the Northern and Eastern sections of the Moor. The Southern and Western portions, containing Parts 1, 4 and 5, can be obtained in a uniform volume, which describes Princetown, Two Bridges, Ashburton, Brent, Ivybridge, Plympton, Shaugh, Yelverton and the surrounding Tors, Crosses and Antiquities.

Visitors to the West will find our moorland country a source of interest and delight, and during their perambulations will no doubt be glad to become acquainted with other works relating to Glorious Devon. We therefore invite enquiries, which shall receive prompt and careful attention.

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# GUIDE TO DARTMOOR:

*A Topographical Description  
of the Forest and Commons*

BY

WILLIAM CROSSING,

AUTHOR OF

*The Ancient Stone Crosses of Dartmoor and Its Borderland, Amid Devonia's Alps  
Tales of the Dartmoor Pixies, Gems in a Granite Setting, A Hundred  
Years on Dartmoor, Folk Rhymes of Devon,  
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1848-1928

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**Tavistock, Lydford, Okehampton and  
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## PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION.

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THE favourable reception accorded to the former editions of this Guide has rendered a further issue necessary. In this some considerable alterations in the arrangement have been made. While a description of Dartmoor in one volume had much to recommend it, the plan was also not without its disadvantages. The ground covered being extensive it was impossible to produce such a book as the author considered the subject demanded without its becoming rather bulky, and this was inconvenient from the tourist's point of view. It is now divided into five parts, but there has been no abridgement of matter. The few alterations in the text are chiefly of the nature of additions which were needed in order to bring the book up to date.

The author is much gratified at knowing that the Guide has been found helpful by the tourist in the past, and ventures to believe that in its present form it will prove of still greater value in the future.

BLACK DOWN, DARTMOOR,

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*Yelverton District*

## PREFACE.

---

DURING recent years the claims of Dartmoor as a holiday and health resort have become widely recognized. Those to whom an old world region is an attraction will find in it a field of surpassing interest. No district in England of similar extent is so rich in pre-historic remains, and in none does Nature wear a wilder aspect.

To this elevated tract of land no guide book, in the true sense of the term, has hitherto appeared. It has, of course, been noticed in county guides, and there are also topographical works and handbooks descriptive of it, but in the former the accounts are necessarily superficial, while in the latter the visitor is not given any directions for finding his way over those parts of the waste remote from roads. To enable him to learn what Dartmoor really is he needs something beyond notices of the more celebrated, because more readily accessible, places and objects of interest. He should be led from the beaten track, and wander among the hills where signs of man's occupancy are not, where silence broods over the sea of fen, and the pasture grounds of the cattle that range at will are as they were when the Norman herdsman drove his beasts there; or he should stray into solitary combes encumbered with the ruined huts and fallen rock-pillars of the people who once made this wild land their home. As my acquaintance with Dartmoor is a life-long one, and as it has been with me a subject of study and of systematic investigation during many years, it is with some degree of confidence that I take upon myself the task of conducting the visitor over it, and leading him into its remoter parts.

This book is the first to give a complete topographical description of Dartmoor, and the reader may depend upon its being correct. Its aim is to furnish the visitor with an account of all that is to be found on the moor worthy of note, and to acquaint him with the best means of reaching the various objects from any point. The districts into which the moor has been divided are described in the excursions, and

at the end of these are given routes to each of the other districts. By this arrangement the moor is crossed in every conceivable direction, so that it is not possible to find any part of it that is not noticed somewhere in the book. For the sake of convenience the terms used in connection with the forest and commons are given, with their meanings, in glossarial form, some archæological terms being also included.

I desire to express my thanks to Mr. PHILIP GUY STEVENS, of Princetown, for the series of pen-and-ink sketches he has been at such pains to furnish, and which were executed on the spot. It is hoped they will be found useful as a means of helping the visitor to identify the principal tors and hills.

If I gain the confidence of the rambler who uses this book my satisfaction will be complete. There is some reason for me to hope that I shall do so, as I venture to believe that he will discover ere we have gone far on our wanderings together that I am really and truly a Dartmoor man.

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The numbers of the Routes and Excursions as given in the first edition of the Guide are retained throughout. T. signifies Track ; Ex. or S. Ex., Excursion or Shorter Excursion ; R., Route ; and C. R., Cranmere Route. The entire length of each Excursion is given ; Route distances are given one way only.

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# GUIDE TO DARTMOOR.

## IN FIVE PARTS.

---

### Part I. PRINCETOWN, TWO BRIDGES, HEXWORTHY, AND POST BRIDGE DISTRICTS.

Deals with the whole of the central part of the Moor, and contains notices of Crazy Well Pool, Seward's Cross, Childe's Tomb, the Merivale Antiquities, Mis Tor, Wistman's Wood, Dartmeet, etc.

Excursions 1 to 6; 41 to 46. Shorter Exs. 1 to 14. Routes 1 to 8. Cranmere Routes 1, 2, 15, 16, 17.

### Part II. TAVISTOCK, LYDFORD, OKEHAMPTON, AND STICKLEPATH DISTRICTS.

Describes Northern Dartmoor, extending from Sampford Spiney on the West to Throwleigh on the East: Notices Brent Tor, Lydford Gorge, Hill Bridge, Tavy Cleave, Fur Tor, the Island of Rocks, Yes Tor, the Belstone Range, Cosdon, etc.

Excursions 7 to 18. S. Exs. 15 to 47. Routes 9 to 30. C.R. 3 to 11.

### Part III. CHAGFORD, MORETON, LUSTLEIGH, AND BOVEY TRACEY DISTRICTS.

A Description of Eastern Dartmoor: This part contains a notice of Cranmere Pool, and among other places and objects included in the Excursions are the Scorhill and Kes Tor Antiquities, Teign Head, Fernworthy, Grim's Pound, Drewsteignton Dolmen, Fingle Bridge, Lustleigh Cleave, Hey Tor, etc.

Excursions 19 to 25. S. Exs. 48 to 87. Routes 31 to 46. C.R. 12, 13, 14.

**Part IV. ASHBURTON, BRENT, IVYBRIDGE, AND CORNWOOD DISTRICTS.**

The whole of Southern Dartmoor, so rich in antiquities and charming border scenery, is described in this part. Among other places noticed are Rippon Tor, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, the Buckland Woods, Holne Chase, Brent Moor, Shipley, the Valley of the Erme, Stowford Cleave, Hawns and Dendles, etc.

Excursions 26 to 34. S. Exs. 88 to 121. Routes 47 to 66. From the southern part of the moor the starting points of the Cranmere Routes are Princetown, Two Bridges, and Post Bridge, C.R. 1, 2, 16, 17. These are given in Part I.

**Part V. PLYMPTON, SHAUGH, YELVERTON, AND DOUSLAND DISTRICTS.**

Describes Western Dartmoor from Cornwood to the Walkham : Shaugh Bridge, the Dewer Stone, the Plym Valley, Meavy, Sheep's Tor, and the Burrator Lake. This part also contains a brief description of the old pack-horse tracks on the Moor, to which reference is frequently made in the book, as well as a Dictionary of Terms used in connection with the Forest and Commons.

Excursions 35 to 40. Routes 67 to 76. For Cranmere Routes see Princetown, Two Bridges, and Post Bridge, C.R. 1, 2, 16, 17, in Part I.

Each Part contains directions for reaching Cranmere Pool from the Districts described in it.

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"A Hundred Years on Dartmoor" .. . .	100 Years.
"Gems in a Granite Setting" .. . .	Gems.
"The Ancient Stone Crosses of Dartmoor and Its Borderland" .. . . .	Crosses.
"Amid Devonia's Alps" .. . . .	Dev. Alps.
"Tales of the Dartmoor Pixies" .. . . .	Pixies

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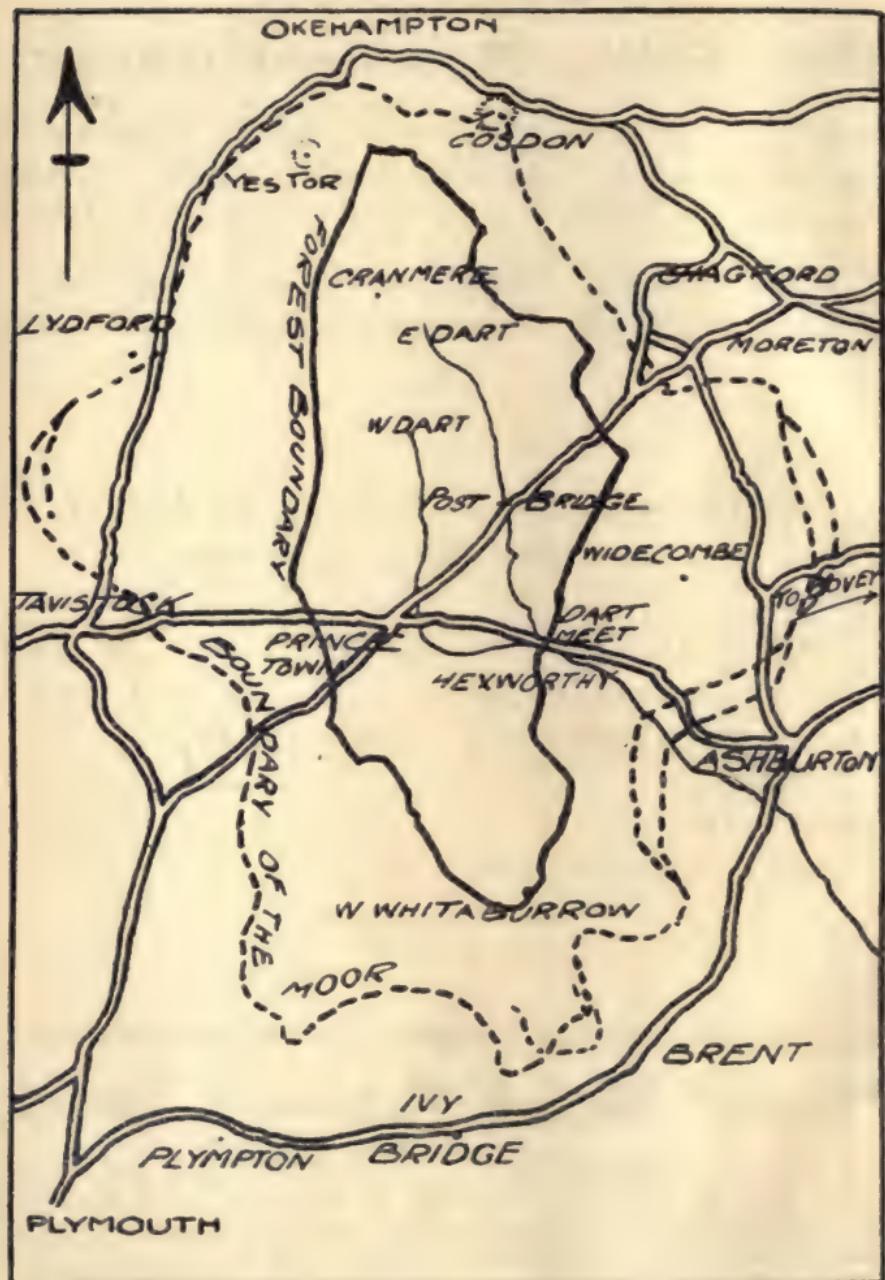
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# SKETCH MAP



BOUNDARIES OF DARTMOOR  
FOREST & COMMONS.

# GUIDE TO DARTMOOR.

---

## TAVISTOCK DISTRICT.

DISTANCES. BY ROAD : *ASHBURTON*, via Two Bridges, 21 m. *BOVEY TRACEY*, via T.B., 25½ m. *BRENT TOR*, 3¾ m. *Do. VILLAGE*, 4½ m. *BUCKFASTLEIGH*, via T.B., 22 m. *CHAGFORD*, via T.B., 18½ m. *Cornwood*, via Whitchurch and Grenofen Cross, Horrabridge, Walkhampton, Dousland and Cadaford Bridge (9), 13¾ m. *DARTMEET*, via T.B., 13 m. *DARTMOOR INN*, *LYDFORD*, via Heathfield, 8½ m., via Black Down, 7¾ m. *DOUSLAND*, 5½ m. *EXETER*, via Okehampton, 38 m. *HEXWORTHY*, via T.B., 13½ m. *HILL BRIDGE*, via Peter Tavy, 5¾ m. ; via Mary Tavy and Zoar Down, 7½ m. *HOLNE*, via T.B., 18 m. *HORRABRIDGE*, via Whitchurch, 3½ m. *Do. STATION*, via Magpie, 4 m. *IVYBRIDGE*, see *Cornwood*, add 3 m. *LANE END*, for Tavy Cleave, 6¾ m. *LYDFORD*, via Heathfield and Manor Hotel, 7½ m. ; via Black Down and Skit, 8 m. ; via Black Down and Dartmoor Inn, 8½ m. *MARY TAVY*, 3½ m. *MERIVALE BRIDGE*, 4½ m. *MORETON*, via T.B., 20 m. *OKEHAMPTON*, 16 m. *PETER TAVY*, 3 m. *PLYMOUTH*, 14 m. *PLYMPTON*, via Roborough, George Hotel, and Plym Bridge, 14 m. *POST BRIDGE*, via T.B., 11½ m. *POUND'S GATE*, via T.B., 16½ m. *PRINCETOWN*, 7½ m. *RUNDLE STONE*, 6 m. *SAMPFORD SPINEY*, 3½ m. *SHAUGH*, via Dousland and Cadaford Bridge, 10½ m. *SHEEPSTOR VILLAGE*, 2½ m. from Dousland round Yennadon. *SOURTON*, 11 m. *SOUTH BRENT*, via Ivybridge, 21¾ m. *TAVY CLEAVE* (see Lane End). *TWO BRIDGES*, 8 m. *WALREDDON* (West Down Gate, for Double Waters), 2½ m. *WAPSWORTHY*, via Peter Tavy, 5½ m. *WARREN HOUSE INN*, via T.B., 13¾ m. *WIDECOMBE*, via T.B., 18 m. *YELVERTON*, 5 m.

BY RAIL : *EXETER* (L.S.W.), 42 m. *LYDFORD* (L.S.W., 6½ m., G.W., 7 m.) *OKEHAMPTON* (L.S.W.), 16½ m. *PLYMOUTH* (L.S.W.), 20½ m. (G.W.), 16¾ m. [Fares the same.] *PRINCETOWN* (G.W.), 16 m. *YELVERTON*, (G.W.), 5½ m.

---

## Important Points and Landmarks.

Hill Bridge—Merivale Bridge—Mis Tor—Sandy Ford (Walkham)—Warren's Cross. *Places of Interest*. Brent Tor—Black Down—Cocks' Tor, Staple Tors and Roose Tor—Lydford (Lydford District)—Peter Tavy Combe—Pu Tor—Sampford Spiney—The Tavy below Horndon—Valley of the Walkham—Vixen Tor—Whitchurch Down—White Tor. *Prehistoric Antiquities*. Langstone Moor: stone circle and menhir, and hut circles at White Tor, or Whittor, and Wed Lake—

## TAVISTOCK DISTRICT.

Merivale: rows, huts, and menhir. *Mining Remains.* Walkham: blowing houses near Merivale Bridge, and streaming remains above Mis Tor.

Tavistock is about two miles from Dartmoor, but is very near to Whitchurch Down, which at one time formed a spur of the moor. As one of the stannary towns it was connected with it during several centuries, and there is early mention of lands in the parish possessing venville rights. One of the town's benefactors, John D'Abernon, held high offices in connection with Dartmoor in the fourteenth century. The Fitz family, of Fitzford, were early possessors of land on Dartmoor, and of these one of the members was the notorious Lady Howard. The Abbey was founded in 961, by Ordgar, Earl of Devon, and in it was afterwards preserved the important charter by which King John disafforested the County of Devon, with the exception of Dartmoor and Exmoor.

Three inscribed stones of early date are to be seen in the vicarage garden. One was discovered in the town, and the others in the neighbourhood of it.

### Excursions from Tavistock.

Tracks in the vicinity, Nos. 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23.  
[The area over which these excursions extend is bounded on the E. by the Walkham, and on the N. by an imaginary line drawn from 1 m. below the head of that stream to Hill Bridge, and thence to Lydford Station. The Merivale Antiquities and Mis Tor are noticed in the *Princetown District*, and Tavy Cleave in the *Lydford District* but directions for reaching them are given here. Ex. 7, 9.]

**Ex. 7.—Whitchurch Down, Pu Tor, Sampford Spiney, Ward Bridge, Valley of the Walkham, Vixen Tor, The Windy Post, 12 m.**

We leave the town by a path opposite to the entrance to the G.W.R. Station, which will lead us to Whitchurch Down. When we enter upon the down we pass upward with the enclosures L., and at a distance of about 150 yards from the higher corner of these shall reach what is known as the Square Seat. Here is a good view of the town we have just left, and also an exceedingly fine one of the moor, extending from the range on which Great Links Tor is situated to the Dower Stone, and including among other prominent heights Hare Tor, above Tavy Cleave, White Tor, Cocks' Tor Hill, the Staple Tors, and North Hisworthy. (For the latter see *Princetown District*). We can also look away to the S.W. corner of the moor, where Pen Beacon, overlooked by Shell Top, rises above Cornwood (Ex. 36, R. 7). Northward is Brent Tor (Ex. 9), and to the R. of it the wide sweep of Black Down.\*

\* A road now leads to Whitchurch Down. This was made by the Duke of Bedford, and forms an excellent approach to what must be regarded as not the least among the attractions of which Tavistock is the happy possessor. The road leaves the main one leading to Whitchurch just beyond the G.W.R. Station, branching on the L., and is carried across the path above named.

[From the E. end of the town a road leads to Whitchurch Down from Vigo Bridge. In ascending the hill a steep, narrow pack-horse track branching R. may be followed, or the more circuitous way by the road be chosen. In the latter case the visitor turns R. opposite to the entrance to Mount Tavy, the point gained being the same. Just where the road enters on the down there is a granite slab on the bank L. This is an old milestone. On its face, cut in deep letters, is the inscription, "14 miles to Plymouth," and on the edge of it, "T. 1." About a couple of hundred yards further on is the head of a cross, set in its socket stone, also on the L. of the road. [Crosses, Chap. IX.] A little beyond this is a small parish boundary stone, bearing the letter W (Whitchurch) on one face, and the letter T (Tavistock) on the other. The road runs on to Warren's Cross (see *post*) with a branch by way of Middle Moor to the village of Whitchurch.]

Passing onward from the Square Seat we shortly cross the road just noticed, and make our way over the middle of the down by the golf links. On our R. is Middle Moor, and just beyond this we notice the entrance to Holwell, the ancient seat of the Glanvilles. A little further on we shall reach the cross mentioned in R. 1., and which stands on the line of the old Abbots' Way (T. 1). [Crosses, Chap. IX.] It is placed within a small circular enclosure, the low bank of which is much overgrown. From its appearance it is probable that this cross is of earlier date than the Abbots' Way. On the edge of the down to the R. are some ruined walls, which bear the name of Monkeys' Castle, but which it is not unlikely is a corruption of Monks' Castle.

Just beyond this cross, that is, a short distance E. of it, the Monks' path forked, one branch, the Abbots' Way, going straight on, and the other, the path through Sampford to Meavy and Plympton, diverging R. As we advance towards the E. end of the down we have on the R. Warren's Cross, close to a plantation, where the Tavistock and Sampford road crosses one coming up from Horrabridge.\* The latter runs L. to the small hamlet of Penny-come-Quick (*Pen-y-cwm-cwic*, the head of the narrow combe, or valley), and on through Moor Shop (R. 1.) to Peter Tavy (Ex. 8). This we cross a little S. of the thirteenth milestone from Plymouth, and descend to Quarry Lane, which runs between the fields to the common at Moortown,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant.

Just before reaching the down a curious object may be observed in the wall on the L. It is a Blowing Stone, one of the kind formerly used at the time of summoning the venville tenants, and others, whose duty it was to assist in driving the moor. (See *Drift*, in *Terms* section).

\* [ $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Warren's Cross is Plaster Down, over which the Horrabridge road runs for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. The down adjoins the common on which Sampford Tor and Pu Tor are situated. (See *Yelverton District*).]

No stone cross is to be seen at Warren's Cross, though it is not improbable that in the days of the monks one was erected there. But we cannot determine this from the name, which simply means a cross-road. The point was an important one, as it was there that the track from Tavistock to Sampford Spiney was crossed by the one leading from Peter Tavy and Mary Tavy to Buckland.

## TAVISTOCK DISTRICT.

On one side it is concave, and the horn being blown against this was supposed to give forth a louder sound. The stone has, of course, been brought to its present situation from some lofty point.

Near by is Iddymead Cottage, formerly known as Rogues' Roost, which title, if report be correct, was not inappropriate. It is said to have been the haunt of a band of sheep-stealers, whose depredations caused the farmers in the neighbourhood much uneasiness. No traces of the animals stolen from the commons were ever discovered, but it was whispered that they were driven to the Roost, and there slaughtered and cut up, the skins being concealed in a cave. The owner of the property told me some years ago that out of curiosity he had opened the so-called cave, which he found to be merely a hollow formed by some huge stones, but there were no signs of anything having been buried there.

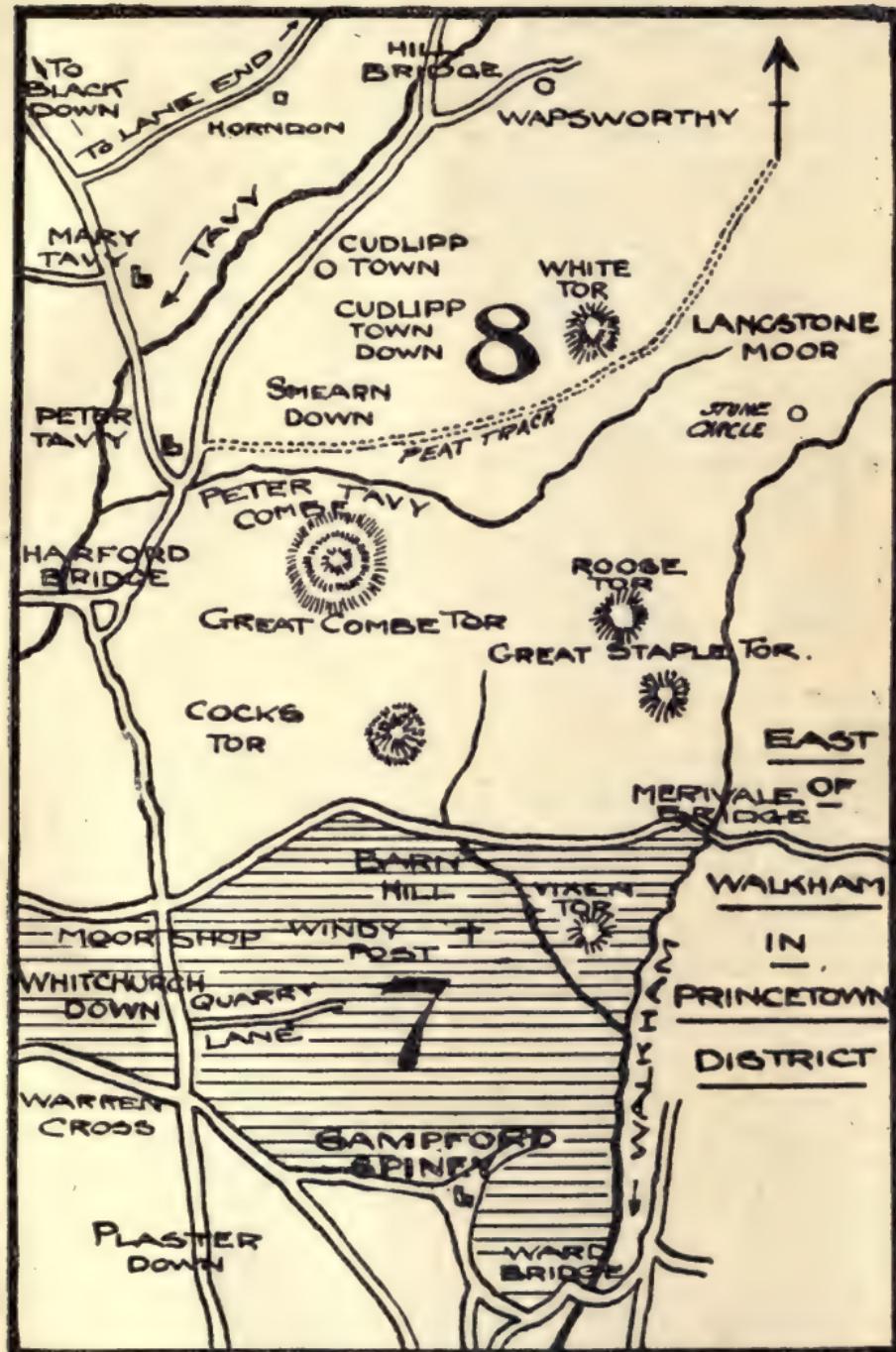
On the R. at the end of the lane is Langstone, but the name does not owe its origin to the former presence of a menhir, as some visitors in their antiquarian zeal might perhaps be apt to imagine. The property was formerly called Stone, and being occupied by a Mr. Lang, was referred to as Lang's Stone. Instances of a similar nature are found in many places round the moor. Moortown stands on the verge of the common on the L. In Risdon's time it belonged to the Moringes, "a family which anciently wrote themselves De la More." There is a monument to this family in the church at Whitchurch. Early in the nineteenth century it was in the possession of John Ridout, whose name appears on an inscription on a paten which he presented to Sampford Spiney Church in 1811. In 1846 Moortown was the property of Jonas Ridout.

Passing up the hill in a south-easterly direction we reach Pu Tor, which, though not of great elevation, is yet a conspicuous object in this locality. The rock piles do not rise to a great height above the turf, but are nevertheless imposing. There are four principal groups, each placed towards one of the cardinal points. On the N. pile are several rock basins, the most perfect measuring 2ft. 10ins. by 2ft. 2ins.; it is 10ins. deep. This one is furnished with a lip. Of the others two are in a fairly perfect state, but the remainder are much worn. On the W. pile there is another basin. The view from Pu Tor is exceedingly fine, much of the moor being revealed on one side, and a vast extent of cultivated country on the other. Between the S. and W. piles the distant Channel and Mount Edgcumbe are seen, and also the confluence of the Tamar and the Tavy, with the Cornish hills beyond. [Gems, Chap. XXI.]

Near the S. pile is a stone bearing the letters S.S.P. It is one of several on this common similarly inscribed, and marking the bounds of Sampford Spiney parish. The moorland part of this parish, which is defined by these stones, runs up into the common land belonging to Whitchurch, and for some little distance is but a mere strip. The boundary lines then diverge, one running towards Vixen Tor (see post) and the other nearly to the Windy Post (do.). They then converge, and meeting form a figure resembling a lozenge in heraldry, or, as one may be told in the neighbourhood, like the Ace of Diamonds, by which name this part of the parish is sometimes referred to.

Leaving Pu Tor we descend the hill with Pu Tor Cottage on the R., our course being S.E. At the lower corner of the enclosure we

# 3.TAVISTOCK DISTRICT.



EXCURSIONS 7, 8

## TAVISTOCK DISTRICT.

strike a moorland road, and turning R., then crossing another road, and soon after, again turning R., shall reach the small settlement of Sampford Spiney.

[The rambler may strike S. by W. from the tor to Sampford Tor, a small pile rapidly disappearing under the hand of the quarryman. Then continue the same course to the road from Tavistock, and turn L. to the village.]

Sampford Spiney hardly deserves the name of a village, consisting, as it does, only of a church, a school, an ancient manor house, now a farm, and a few dwellings. These are grouped round a green, on which is a fine old tree and an ancient cross [*Crosses, Chap. VIII.*] It is a restful place, and although some recent erections have somewhat marred its primitive aspect, it has by no means entirely lost its old-world appearance. The church formerly belonged to Plympton Priory (T. 69, *Plympton District*), the arms of which religious house may be seen on the S. face of the tower. They are carved on a stone at the side of the large window, two keys, crossed. Crocketted pinnacles rise from the angles of the tower, which is perpendicular, as also is the nave. The chancel has been re-built, but retains its original decorated style. In the time of Henry II. the manor was held by Robert de Spinet, and continued in that family during several descents. It was afterwards in the possession of the Drakes, Bidgoods, and Halls. At present it belongs to Captain Hall-Parby, of Manadon, near Plymouth.

[Leaving this secluded little place by the road running S.E. from the green, we make our way to Ward Bridge (Ex. 1),  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant. To do this it is only necessary that we keep to the L. The bridge is delightfully placed in the depths of the Walkham Valley, which is here thickly wooded. It is modern, but replaces an old structure that was swept away by a flood in July, 1890. Below the bridge, on the K. bank of the river, is Woodtown, the delightful residence of Mrs. W. F. Collier. On the L. is Eggworthy, where is a shooting-box belonging to Sir Henry Lopes.

Passing up the lane on the further side of the Walkham (the F.), we shall soon reach the cross ways near Withill Farm mentioned in Ex. 1, and the directions there given will enable to rambler to make his way up the valley to Merivale Bridge, and to visit the antiquities near it. The return to Tavistock from Merivale has already been given in R. 1.]

From the green at Sampford Spiney we shall proceed to the common, leaving the church R., and make our way across its edge, with the Walkham Valley on the R., by the track already described (T. 13) to Vixen Tor; or we may proceed to that pile by way of the path leading to Vixen Tor Farm. If we decide upon the latter we shall enter the gate at Hecklake, which we see R. just after passing the track branching off for Pu Tor Cottage. Close to the gate is one of the parish boundary stones already referred to. Our road now lies along the side of the hill, running parallel to the track (T. 13), but at some distance below it. Ere we have proceeded far we shall reach a small pile of rocks, L. of the way, the scene of an adventure of one Roody of Heckwood. A short distance further on we shall pass a

## EXCURSION 7. VIXEN TOR.

7

large worked granite stone, by the roadside, R., which was originally intended for the Plymouth Breakwater, but was rejected on account of a flaw, and soon after shall come in sight of Vixen Tor Farm, on the side of the hill on which rises the tor that gives name to it. As it is situated within the farm enclosures, it will be better that we pass up by the house and obtain permission to visit it.

(The scenery in this valley is described in *Gems*, Chap. XXI.)

Vixen Tor rises to a considerable height above the turf, and is a conspicuous object from many parts of the commons surrounding it. On the summit are three rock basins, one being 14ins. deep, another

Cocks  
Tor.

Staple  
Tors.

Barn Hill.

Mis Tor.



FROM WINDY POST, LOOKING N.E.

9ins., and the third 8ins. The resemblance to the Egyptian Sphinx borne by this tor has often been noticed. This is particularly observable from the Merivale and Tavistock road. This road runs about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of the tor, the point where the rambler will strike it in going direct to it being less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Merivale Bridge. Directions for reaching the antiquities from the gate of Long Ash Farm, which is on the side of the hill above the E. end of the bridge, are given in Ex. I.

[Mis Tor is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. by N. of Merivale Bridge, and can readily be reached. It is in full view. The tor is noticed in Ex. 6.]

For the routes from Merivale to Tavistock see R. I. If the path

Cocks'  
Tor.

Staple  
Tors.



FROM BARN HILL,  $\frac{1}{4}$  M. NORTH OF WINDY POST.

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by Moortown and Whitchurch Down be chosen the rambler will pass the Windy Post soon after crossing the Beckamoor Combe Water. This cross, which is about 7 feet in height, stands on a plain piece of ground extending from Barn Hill to Feather Tor, and is close to the latter, which is a pile of small size. Its type proclaims it to be of the sixteenth century, and as it stands beside a path which existed long before that time (T. 1), it is probable that it replaced an older cross.  
 [Crosses, Chap. IX.]

*Ex. 8.—Pork Hill, Cocks' Tor, The Staple Tors, Roose Tor, Langstone Moor Antiquities, White Tor, Smeardon Down, Peter Tavy Combe, 13½ m. With EXTENSIONS TO Walkham Head, Cudlipp Town, and Wapsworthy, and RETURN ROUTES BY Hill Bridge, Horndon, and Mary Tavy.*

For the first three miles our way will take us over the Princetown road. We leave the town by way of Vigo Bridge, and ascending the hill with the grounds of Mount Tavy L., and avoiding all turnings, shall, at the distance of nearly two miles from Tavistock, reach Moor Shop (R. 1). Here we cross the Horrabridge and Harford Bridge road, and passing up Pork Hill, shall soon find ourselves on the common. We strike L. over the turf to Cocks' Tor Hill, which rises close at hand, crossing on the way the track described in the section dealing with the old moor paths (T. 15). At the southern end of this hill, which runs about N. and S. for the distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., are a number of rock piles, among which may be seen a small shelter of the kind formerly erected by herdsmen and shepherds on the tors. Below these piles a reave runs E. and W. to the head of Beckamoor Combe (Ex. 7), and may also be seen again on the side of the hill near Roose Tor. Between it and the rock piles is a single hut circle, and other examples of these occur further W. near the track. Ascending the hill at this point we proceed northward to Cocks' Tor, of which the rocks just noticed may be regarded as an outlying portion. We shall find it to be of rather large size, though the blocks composing it are not particularly so. The higher pile is surrounded by a low vallum of stones, but for what purpose it was designed is not very clear, unless it may have been intended to build a cairn round the rocks, as in the case of Shell Top (Ex. 34) and Linch Tor (Ex. 10). On the N.E. side is another small shelter.

The view from this commanding border height, which attains an elevation of 1,452 feet, is very fine. Northward, beyond White Tor, is seen the ridge above the Rattle Brook, from which rise the rocks of Hare Tor and Great Links Tor; across the Beckamoor Dip eastward are the Staple Tors and Roose Tor, and further away the great crown of Mis Tor. To the south is the common above Sampford Spiney, with Vixen Tor and Pu Tor. From this the cultivated land stretches away to the groves of Mount Edgcumbe, and thence, ranging westward, the eye looks upon a diversified tract of country, backed by the Cornish hills. In the valley at our feet, as it were, is the town of Tavistock.

Cocks' Tor Hill is composed of trap rock, the junction of this with

the granite being in the valley on the E. Its summit is fairly level, and free from heather, and except near the tor the surface is covered with smooth turf. At its northern end are two cairns, and the remains of a stone row, and having examined these we shall turn E. by S. and cross the shallow valley to Great Staple Tor, which is rather less than 1 m. distant. (See *post*). On our L. as we proceed is a group of hut circles, close to which runs the path from Merivale to Peter Tavy (T. 14), and which we shall strike at its paved part as we near the tor. Here, too, we cross the boundary line separating the common lands of Peter Tavy from those of Whitchurch, which line runs up from head of Beckamoor Combe towards Roose Tor. This was once the scene of a quarrel which terminated in the manner usually associated in our minds with the slight misunderstandings that occasionally arise at Donnybrook Fair. The men of one of the parishes named were viewing their bounds, the operation being watched by the men of the other, when a dispute arose about a bondmark. Heated arguments followed, but failed to be convincing, and finally recourse was had to another means of settling the matter. But that also failed, though it cannot be said that it was barren of results. Those who returned home with broken heads were certainly not inclined to think so.

Great Staple Tor is one of four tors that crown the ridge running parallel to the Walkham, and high above its western bank. Southward of it are Mid Staple Tor and Little Staple Tor; northward is Roose Tor. The rocks of Great Staple Tor assume very fantastic shapes, and in some instances are poised in such a manner as to induce the beholder to believe that a very slight effort would suffice to overthrow them. It is a striking tor from whichever side it is beheld, but becomes really impressive when closely approached. It consists of several piles of rocks, with a large area clothed with short turf in the centre, and an immense number of scattered rocks, that speak only too plainly of the havoc the forces of Nature have wrought on this stupendous granite citadel. There are rock basins on the tor, and also an interesting object which has been regarded as a tolmen. It will be found on the westernmost pile, and consists of an overhanging rock, at some distance above the ground, the end of which is supported on a lump of granite of a roughly globular form, which rests upon the extreme edge of another rock, and is kept in position by the first. The object is not, however, a true tolmen, such being, as the name implies, a holed stone, but we shall, nevertheless, be quite willing to believe that it was employed in the mysterious Druidical rites—when it is shown to our satisfaction that such rites were ever practiced on the moor. In the meantime all we can say about it is that the stones are certainly very curiously poised, and that it is Nature's handiwork alone. It is rather unfair on the part of a certain writer to make Mrs. Bray attempt to scale the chief pile of Great Staple Tor, and confess that she was compelled to stop at the third block from the top, when, as a matter of fact, she has nowhere said that she had even visited the tor.

About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. due N. of Staple Tor is Roose Tor, the dip between them being very slight. As we make our way thither over plain, turfey ground, we have a fine view of the surrounding moor, in which Mis Tor, across the valley of the Walkham, is a conspicuous feature. In Roose Tor we have another very striking group of rocks. On its

## TAVISTOCK DISTRICT.

northern side the granite forms a solid buttress of considerable height; its other parts are formed of huge blocks. There are a number of basins on the tor, and in one example, which was furnished with a lip, the portion of the rock in which the latter was formed is broken off, and lies in a crevice below it. Around the tor, at some little distance from it, are a number of upright stones, enclosing it in a circle, as it were. These stones are about 4 feet in height, and are squarely cut, and inscribed with the letter B, as also are several similar stones which the rambler may have observed near the road as he entered on the common. They mark the boundary of lands belonging to the Duke of Bedford. Close to one of these bondstones on the northern side of the tor is a rock having a flat surface level with the ground, on which is engraved a small circle bisected by a straight line. Roose Tor is not wanting in historical interest. The common immediately around it probably formed one of the old predas to which its name was attached. I cannot find it mentioned at a very early date, but it is referred to in 1665 as the pasture of Rulestorre.\* Probably this form of the name is correct, though it is usually pronounced as I have given it. On the recent Ordnance Map it appears as Rolls Tor.

Northward of Roose Tor is Langstone Moor, and over this we shall now make our way to the stone circle before referred to (*Princetown District*). This object we may see from the tor in a N.E. direction. The stones composing it lay prone upon the turf until the year 1894, when they were set up. Being a restoration this monument loses something of its interest, but it is at the same time a matter for congratulation that it was not allowed to remain in a ruined condition. There are 16 stones in the circle, the diameter of which is about 56 feet. Three other stones, now also set up, are supposed to have belonged to another circle standing outside the existing one, so that the monument consisted of two concentric circles, if such was really the case. Of this, however, I am by no means convinced. Between this circle and the river are a number of ruined huts, some of them being within a pound of the ordinary character. Charcoal and flint have been found in these.

[From this point we may extend our ramble to the Lich Path (T. 18), where it crosses the Walkham at Sandy Ford (Ex. 6). Proceeding N.E. for nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. we shall reach the head of Deadlake Well, where the track from Princetown via Blackabrook Head (T. 12) passes. The combe down which the little Deadlake runs is a favourite spot with the whortleberry gatherer. The water of the tiny stream is said to possess magic properties. Whichever member of a party approaching it drinks of it first will find a lover before the year closes. From this point we follow the forest boundary line, which runs N.N.E. over Cocks' Hill to White Barrow, a distance of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. The Lich Path (T. 18) is quite close to this barrow, and leads R., to Sandy Ford, on the Walkham. Before it reaches that stream the road forks, the R. branch being the ancient way and the L. one the turf track (T. 16) to Walkham Head. In the angle the remains of some mine buildings will be noticed. From White Barrow the Lich Path ran

\* In connection with it the pastures of Crowtorre and Claytorre are also named. The latter is a small tract near the Walkham below Sandy Ford, but no tor exists there. (See Post).

towards Bagga Tor, the direction being about N.W., but for some distance between these two points it is not clearly defined, as already observed (see T. 18). But if the rambler follows the course indicated, making his way towards the moor gate, with the enclosure of Longbetor L., and those of Bagga Tor Farm R., he will see the old path again near the tor. From this moor gate the road will lead him to Waps-worthy and Hill Bridge (Ex. 10).

But at White Barrow the rambler is also on the Walkham Head track from Peter Tavy (T. 16), and by this, the general direction being W.S.W., he may make his way back to the menhir on the western side of Langstone Moor, the distance being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m.]

From Langstone Moor Circle our way will lead us to the menhir, under White Tor (R. 2), to which, however, we must not proceed direct, the ground about the springs of the Peter Tavy Brook, W.N.W., being rather boggy, as already mentioned (R. 2). Our course will be N.W. until, having passed the source of the stream, we can bear L. to the menhir which we shall plainly see. This fine monolith was re-erected at the same time as the circle. It stands beside the Walkham Head peat track (T. 16), and, it may be noticed, is in a direct line between Great Links Tor (Ex. 12) and Peak Hill, on Walkhampton Common (Ex. 39). From this menhir a single stone row runs to a small pond about 130 yards distant, and a little westward is another row, also single, and not quite so long. The latter has much the appearance of an old reave. There are some other remains near, but they are not in a particularly good state of preservation.

As we mount the slope towards White Tor (1,529 feet), which is quite near to these remains, we shall notice the vallum surrounding the pile, and which renders it one of the most curious tors on the moor. Several of the rock masses are incorporated in this rude wall, which, on the E. side, is in a better state of preservation than elsewhere. Remains of hut foundations occur within it, and a number of flint chips have been found among these, and around the tor. This circum-vallation differs from the ordinary hut pounds, and seems to have been constructed for defensive purposes.

Descending the side of White Tor, in a direction S. by W., we cross the grassy path leading to Walkham Head, and when about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the tor, and near to the Peter Tavy Brook and the enclosures of Wedlake Farm, shall come upon a group of hut circles. These lie along the banks of a tiny rivulet running into the brook named, and the remains of walls seem to show that they were once in enclosures; indeed, there is one of these in a fairly perfect state, containing two huts. This settlement was explored in 1904, and charcoal, pottery, flint flakes, and cooking-stones were found. Eastward is a reave running up to White Tor.

[South-west of Wedlake Farm, and close to the wall, is a large hut settlement, but this is best visited from Cocks' Tor Hill or Roose Tor (see ante). The Peter Tavy Brook is sometimes known as Wed Lake.]

Retracing our steps northward to the peat track (T. 16), we turn L., shortly afterwards reaching a mound close beside it. This is known as Stephens' Grave, and marks the site where a suicide was buried with the barbarous rites once customary. George Stephens was a youth of Peter Tavy, and was driven to take his life by the unfaithfulness of the girl to whom he was betrothed. It is said that

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at the moment he was laid here some linen that was hanging out to bleach at Higher Godsworthy was caught up into the air and never more seen. As we proceed we shall notice two rocks on the common L.; these are known at Setters, and are composed of trap of a brownish colour. It is in layers, and there are many loose pieces lying on and around the masses. Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Stephens' Grave we enter Twyste Lane (T. 16), and passing through it shall find ourselves close to Boulter's Tor on Smeardon, or Smearn, Down.

From this point we may make our way to Peter Tavy direct, either by proceeding over the down westward, or descending to Peter Tavy Combe, and turning down the valley, R.; or we may lengthen our walk by going round by Cudlipp Town. If we choose the former we shall pass along the rocky summit of the ridge, an extensive panorama of field and woodland, moor and distant hill, being spread before us. Close to the highest crag is a small poundlike enclosure, and some faint vestiges of reaves. At the W. of the ridge (on the N. side of which is the enclosure known as Black Shells) we descend to a gate close to an old sandpit, from which a short lane leads to the road near the church. On reaching this we turn L. to the village.

Peter Tavy Combe is situated to the S. of Smeardon Down. We cross the road below Boulter's Tor, and in a corner of the common come upon a footpath running through some enclosures. Turning R. we follow it for a short distance, when we shall find ourselves on the N. side of the combe, just above Little Combe Tor. Great Combe Tor rises on the other side of this little valley, and beyond it is Cocks' Tor Hill. The tor seen between the two is locally known as Sharp Tor. Peter Tavy Combe is a charming spot, to which clings more than one story of the pixies. The Peter Tavy Brook runs through it, and is crossed near the lower end of the combe by a clam. Here the path between the village and Merivale (T. 14) crosses the stream, and is seen ascending the hill towards Great Combe Tor. It there passes through some enclosures and reaches the common just above. Near the clam a path runs up by South Ditch to Smeardon Down, but we follow one that takes us down the valley along the bank of a mill stream, which will lead us past Peter Tavy Mill, a very picturesque building, to the village. [*Gems, Chap. XXII.*]

Should we decide to go round by Cudlipp Town from Boulter's Tor, we turn N.E., and in the corner of the common shall find a narrow path, which will lead us to Broad Moor, with Twyste, one of the ancient vills, on our R. We descend the hill, with the enclosures on our L., and the farm of Broadmoor a short distance R. (T. 17). At the point where we enter on the lane is a small clapper. As we proceed we shall notice the old manor pound on the R., shortly after passing which we reach the road from Wapsworthy (R.) to Peter Tavy village (L.). The manor of Cudlipp Town, which is also an ancient vill, was, previous to the Reform Bill of 1832, in the parish of Tavistock, but was then transferred to Peter Tavy. Owing to this arrangement the new franchise was not extended to the tenants of the manor, and even the owner, notwithstanding that the matter formed the subject of Parliamentary debate, knew nothing of what was going on. In Domesday Cudlipp Town appears as Culitone, and in a forester's account rendered in 1502 as Chodlype, the fine, or rent, of the vill being set down as 5d. Cudlipp occurs as a family name in the neighbourhood. The manor

house, now rebuilt, is situated on the W. side of the road. The distance from Cudlipp Town to Peter Tavy village is 1 m. The latter is a quiet little place, with a church embosomed in trees, a chapel, a school, and a small inn. A cross formerly stood near the churchyard gate, but has now disappeared. [Crosses, Chap. XI.] The Peter Tavy Brook runs through the village and falls into the Tavy just below.

For Walkham Head direct see Track 16.

Tavistock is about 3 m. from Peter Tavy. The way lies along the road S., and then R. to Harford Bridge, where the Tavy is crossed. Soon after this the highway is reached exactly 2 m. from Tavistock, for which turn L.

[EXTENSION FROM Peter Tavy to Wapsworthy, Hill Bridge, and Horndon.]

Passing up the road N., with the church on the L., we make our way through Cudlipp Town (1 m.) A short distance beyond this is a turning L. This leads down to Horndon Bridge, the hamlet from which the structure takes its name being high above the W. bank of the Tavy (see *post*). Rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on is another turning L. This is Church Lane (R. 2), and is the approach to Hill Bridge. Wapsworthy, which is noticed in Ex. 10, is reached by continuing straight on, and is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. distant. Should the visitor extend his walk to that place he may reach Hill Bridge by a path across some fields, instead of retracing his steps to the point he has now reached. To do this he will cross Wapsworthy Bridge and enter at the first gate on the L., and descend to the Tavy with the Wapsworthy Brook also on that hand. Hill Bridge, which is situated in the midst of picturesque surroundings, though of comparatively modern erection, yet exhibits a primitive appearance. There are three openings, the centre one only being arched; the others are formed of slabs of granite laid from buttress to pier. The parapets are very low. When Miss Rachel Evans wrote, in 1846, there was no arch, and the bridge consisted of four openings. But even that she supposes to have taken the place of an older one.\* (Ex. 10). Crossing the bridge we shall pass up the lane for a short distance and enter a gate, inside which is a schoolhouse, L., just where the road bends R. Making our way upward through a field, with Chilly Wood across the brook L., we reach Lower Town, and passing through the farm yard, enter upon a very narrow lane, and keeping L. shall soon find ourselves on Zoar Down. This piece of common is plentifully strewn with rocks, said to have been placed there by the pixies. Bearing L. near Higher and Lower Creason Farms, we speedily arrive at the hamlet of Zoar, consisting of a few cottages by the side of the road running from Mary Tavy to Lane End (Ex. 9). Here we see the higher part of the down, and may observe a large mass of rock near the well of an enclosure. This is known as the Master Rock, and here Billy Bray, the celebrated Cornish preacher, was wont to hold open air services during his visit to this neighbourhood. Turning L. by the hamlet we follow the road across Black Lion Down, where is a small chapel, to Horndon. Here a road runs down L. to Horndon Bridge, before alluded to, skirting a small down known as Common Wood. But our way lies straight on past the New Inn, 1 m. beyond which we

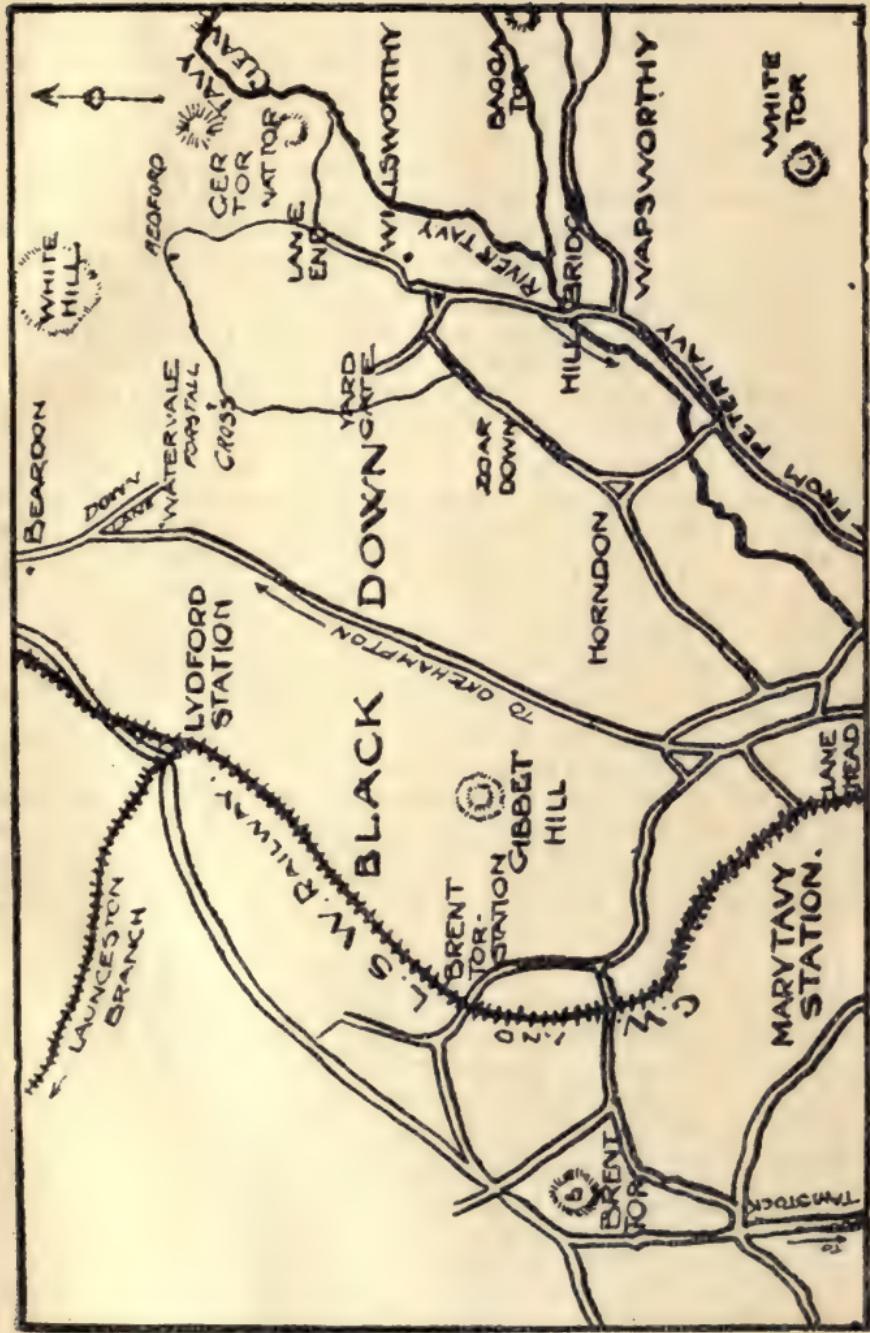
\**Home Scenes; or, Tavistock and its Vicinity.* By Rachel Evans.

**TAVISTOCK DISTRICT.**

shall reach the village of Mary Tavy. Turning L. we pass the school, and presently arrive at the church. Immediately within the gate of the churchyard is an ancient cross. Continuing our way, and keeping L., we arrive at Mary Tavy Clam, in the midst of what was once very fine scenery, but which of late years has been sadly marred by the starting of a mine. Between this clam and Horndon Bridge are some fine crags. One of these we may see as we look up the stream. This is High Tor, the others being Fox Tor and Brimhill Tor. Further up, above the bridge named, is another range of crags, the principal pile being known as Kenter Tor. Crossing the Tavy we follow the bridle path, with the beautiful Longtimber Tor on the R. This stands near the brink of the river, and consists of a square mass of rock rising to a considerable height. It is draped with creeping plants, and bears no slight resemblance to the keep of a ruined castle. Here we pass through a gate into a narrow lane, which will lead us to Peter Tavy village.]

Among early references to Peter Tavy is one on the Court Rolls of the Manor of Lydford, respecting a suit between Roger atte Torre and Reginald Cole, in the fourteenth of Henry IV. The matter in dispute was a trespass in a close in the parish. The venville rent in the time of Henry VII. was the same as Cudlipp Town, 5d., and in the entry in the Forester's Account recording this the place figures as Peturspavy. In the ninth of James I., 1611, Roger Mannaford, of Petertavy, together with several others, among whom was Gregory Newman, the vicar of Walkhampton, was proceeded against by William Hunt, the rector of Lydford, for tithes of the agistment of sheep on Dartmoor and the Commons of Devon, the latter being the broad belt of moorland that surrounds the Forest. (See *Terms* Section, Part V.) The defendants denied their liability. Over half a century later Andrew Gove, the rector of Peter Tavy, was in dispute with some Tavistock men, the former making a claim somewhat similar to that which had been put forward by the rector of Lydford. Gove brought a suit against the persons referred to for tithes of the pastures of Crow Tor, Clay Tor, and Rules, or Roose, Tor, and they in turn filed a bill praying for a prohibition of the suit. They affirmed that they paid to the King certain rents, and performed certain duties and services, and were in return entitled to privileges in the Forest of Dartmoor, which, as they say, lies within the parish of Lydford. "But," they state, "Andrew Gove, of Petertavy, clerk, out of a greedy aim and desire to wrest and distort from your orators tithes, asserts that a part of the Forest, &c., called Crowtorre, Claytorre, and Rulestorre are within the parish of Petertavy, and that he ought to have the tithe of the cattle and pasture there." No answer has been found to these suits, and it is probable the claims for tithe were dropped. As certain defendants in a case of the date 1699 maintained, "No Forest man, venville man, or countryman ever paid tithes, which are compounded for at £3 a year." This tithe of the herbage of Dartmoor was granted by Henry III. "to God and the Church of St. Petroc at Lydford, and the chaplain ministering in the same Church, whosoever for the time being shall be chaplain there, for his maintenance."

# 4. TAVISTOCK DISTRICT.



EXCURSION 9 -

**Ex. 9.—Black Down, Snap, Black Hill, Gibbet Hill, Iron Gate,**  
**1 3½ m. WITH BRANCH TO Lane End, AND EXTENSION TO Brent Tor.**

[Black Down may be reached by G.W.R. to Mary Tavy, and by S.W.R. to Brent Tor. In the former case the rambler will pass up the road to the post office (see *post*), and in the latter he will find himself on the down when he gets outside the station. To reach the Ashburys (see *post*) he will then pass up the hill for a short distance and take the green track L. Keep straight on when it is crossed by another, and passing the enclosures of Higher Spring R. follow the path where it bends L., and which leads direct to the road that comes up from Black Down village.]

Rather over 4 m. from Tavistock the Okehampton and Exeter highway enters upon a part of Dartmoor known as Black Down, and to this we shall now make our way. Shortly after leaving the town we pass the Kelly College, L. of the road, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond it cross the Walla Brook, a tributary of the Tavy. This comes down through the valley near the head of which Kilworthy is situated, passing, not long before we meet it, Indiscombe, the Ina's Combe of William Browne. This pastoral poet, who has been not inaptly called the bard of the Tavy, was born in Tavistock about the year 1590. Many of his descriptions of places are remarkable for their fidelity and beauty. Below Indiscombe is Two Bridges.\*

Opposite to the second milestone at the foot of Wringworthy Hill, a road turns R. to Peter Tavy (Ex. 8), crossing the Tavy close by at Harford Bridge. But our way lies up the long ascent, and across Burn Plain to Lane Head (3½ m. from Tavistock), where a road turns R. down the hill to Mary Tavy village.

[This road also runs on through Horndon to Lane End, and is the direct way to Tavy Cleave. The visitor to the latter will turn L. at the bottom of the hill, and immediately after passing the school, will turn into the Horndon road R. That hamlet will be reached in about 1 m. The rambler will leave it R. and pass over Black Lion Down to Zoar. (Thus far the route has been given the reverse way in Ex. 8). A road runs straight over Zoar Down (Ex. 8), and this he will follow. That part of it leading from the down is known as Buddla Lane, and at the end of this another lane runs at right angles to it ; L. to Yard Gate (see *post*, and T. 18) ; R. to Hill Bridge (Ex. 8) in

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\* “ Low in the valley some small herds of deere,  
     For head and footmanship withouten peer  
     Fed undisturbed ; the swains that thereby thrived,  
     By the tradition from their sires derived,  
     Call'd it sweet Ina's Coombe.”

one direction, and to Lane End in the other. The rambler turns R. but bears L. at the first fork, which is just below. This will lead him by a farm called Will, shortly after which he will reach Willsworthy Bridge, a clapper, but furnished with parapets (Ex. 10). Close to the bridge is an interesting old manor pound, long disused. A little beyond this an ancient chapel formerly stood, R. of the road (*100 Years*, Chap. IV.), and further on again a road turns R. to Willsworthy Farm, and the ford on the Tavy (Ex. 10). About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond this the rambler will arrive at the moor gate at Lane End, directions for reaching Tavy Cleave from which point are given in Ex. 11.]

Passing onward we soon reach the post-office, where a road turns L. to Brent Tor. On the R. is Wheal Friendship, and before us is the village of Black Down, and through this we make our way up the hill to the common from which it takes its name. On nearing this we pass the Ashburys, as the enclosures on the R. are called, and which belong to the farm of Holditch. This is now the property of Okehampton feoffees, and probably gave name to a family once resident in that town, one of which, Walter Holditch, is mentioned as a burgess in the fourth of Henry VIII. A similar name occurs in the parish of Thorncome, its early form, according to Risdon, being Oldich, and which he supposes to have been derived from an ancient enclosure.

[At the point where we enter on the common a moorland road branches R., and descending to the Cholwell Brook, crosses it in the midst of the deserted workings of Wheal Betsy, at one time, like Wheal Friendship, a mine of much importance. Near the bridge over the little stream is a gate, where a path runs up through Mauder's Brake to Kingsett Down, which is seen just across the valley. A plantation, known as Allaclauns, abuts on the down, and to the L. of this a path, skirting the latter, leads to Zoar (Ex. 8), and to the R. of it another, entered at a gate, runs across fields to Horndon (Ex. 8). By this road and path the rambler may reach Horndon Down Bridge, hereafter noticed. On reaching Kingsett Down he will strike L., following a narrow footpath to the corner of Allaclauns Plantation, and thence over the common N. by E., to the bridge.]

Our way lies along the high road, with Gibbet Hill, noticed further on, on the L., and the Wheal Betsy workings in the valley R. Soon four posts will be seen by the roadside, and a few score yards beyond these a path runs up over the shoulder of the hill L. This is the Lydford Path (T. 23), described in the section dealing with the old tracks, and forms the most direct way from this part of the down to Lydford Station. A short distance beyond this there is a long row of stone posts by the roadside, known locally at Annie Pinkham's Men, and here on the bank L., and opposite to the mine house, is the fifth milestone from Tavistock. It also shows Okehampton to be 10 miles distant, and Truro, in the other direction, 56 m.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on an old mine leat runs under the road at Barrett's Bridge. This we do not cross, but turn R. and follow the path that runs on the edge of the water course, with Cholwell Farm in the valley R.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on we cross a shallow gully known in the locality as Goosey Creep, beyond which

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a path branches R. from the watercourse. This we follow, and shall be led to a green track that comes in L. from the high road, and runs on to Zoar Down (T. 24), over a piece of ground usually referred to as Breast-the-Water. At the junction a number of distant tors, among them the piles above Tavy Cleave, are in sight. Close at hand is the clapper known as Horndon Down Bridge. This spans a leat by which water is brought in from the river at Tavy Cleave to the mines. It is placed at the head of a gully which extends downward to the valley in which the Cholwell Brook rises. It consists of three stones laid side by side, the road being sufficiently wide for a cart. The bed of the leat under the bridge is paved. N.E. by E. is Tavy Cleave, at the head of which a small part of Watern Oke is revealed. This, and Limsboro, and Great Mis Tor, are the only portions of the forest that can be seen, although so much of the moor is visible.

Following the wide leat in an easterly direction we shall presently reach the wall of an enclosure R., and shall notice a bondstone on the slope L. This is one of a row marking the boundary line between the common lands of Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy. A few score yards further on we cross the leat at One Stone Bridge, and make our way a short distance down the hill known as Snap (Ex. 10), where we have as fine a picture as can be found in any part of the moorland borders. To the L. is White Hill (Ex. 11), over the crest of which is seen Bra Tor (Ex. 11) with its cross. Great Links Tor (Ex. 12) stands up boldly against the sky, with the farm of Redford (Ex. 11)—locally Ruddiver—under it R., but much nearer to us. Then on the skyline is seen Sharp Tor (Ex. 11) with the conical Hare Tor (Ex. 11) to the R. of it. To the R. of that Ger Tor and the Tavy Cleave Tors (Ex. 11). The fine hill to the R. of the cleave is Standon; at its foot is the farm of the same name. R. of this farm is Bagga Tor, where also is a farm called after the eminence, and beyond it the range on which is Linch Tor (Ex. 10) near the head waters of the Walkham, which rises E.N.E. of it. Here we look down upon the farms formed by the ancient settlers who forced their way into this valley, and among others that may be seen are Nat Tor, Lane End, Willsworthy, Brouzen Tor, Longbetor, Will, Hill Town, and the farms at Wapsworthy. If we proceed a few yards further in a northerly direction we look down upon Yellowmead Farm.

In the corner of the down just below us R. is a gateway, where a track passes across an enclosure to Yard Gate. This is the track already described as running from Hill Bridge to Lydford (T. 18, 25). One of the granite posts of Yard Gate bears some ancient markings, and from a supposed resemblance of the figures to stars, it is sometimes called by the country people Seven Star Gate (Ex. 10).

Retracing our steps we cross the leat and make our way up the slope to the bondstone, and follow the line on which it is placed, our direction being N.N.W. Shortly we shall reach Down Pool and Tin Pits, and passing these shall be led to the Dartmoor Path (T. 21), where it runs over Black Hill. On the further side of this is the object known as the Ring o' Bells. It has the appearance of a small pound, the encircling bank being formed of turf and stone. It may perhaps mark the site of a cairn from which the stones have been removed. There are a number of such on this down. Regaining the track we turn towards the W.S.W., and follow it to the highway, where we

shall leave it, and proceeding a short distance along the road L., shall in turn leave that and strike across the common to Gibbet Hill, which is in full view before us.

Sourton  
Tors,

Corn  
Ridge.

Great Links  
Tor.

Dunnagoat  
Tors.

Sharp  
Tor.



N.E. by N.

Noddon.

Arms

Bra

Doe

Tor.

Tor.

Tor.

FROM GIBBET HILL.

From this fine eminence we see nearly the whole of Black Down. This down is mostly in Mary Tavy, a parish which does not lie in venville. Its extreme length from the Burn stream in Smallacombe Bottom, on the S., to the enclosures of Bear Walls, under White Hill, on the N., is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m., and its width about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., though in one part it is  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. more than that. Gibbet

Hare Tor.

Black Ridge.

Fur Tor.



Ger Tor. Tavy Cleave.  
FROM GIBBET HILL.

attains an elevation of 1159 feet, and on its summit is a quarry in which is a pool of water. The hill obtains its name from the hideous object said once to have been erected here. The road over the down, which was the direct route from New Bridge on the Tamar to Exeter, had the evil reputation of being infested with highwaymen, and this hill being in view from it, and, indeed, from the surrounding country, was deemed a fitting place on which to expose the bodies of malefactors who had suffered at the hands of the law. There are many traditions and stories concerning the spot [100 Years, Chap. II.], and there are

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those now living in the parish whose fathers remembered when a tall post was fixed on the summit of the hill.

Cnt  
Hill.

Stannon.

Linch  
Tor.

Bagga  
Tor.



FROM GIBBET HILL.

Remains of mining operations occur on the side of the hill. It was to these workings that the water was brought in the leat we have noticed at Barrett's Bridge. After being used it was suffered to run into a deep channel known as the Gurgy (*gurges*, a whirlpool), and was by means of this carried to the Cholwell Brook, and so returned to the Tavy. It now furnishes power to Wheal Jewel. The old track over the down, the forerunner of the present road, seems to have been utilized by the miners, since part of the Gurgy is formed upon it. This track we have already noticed (T. 26).

Cocks Hill.

White  
Tor.

Mis  
Tor.

North  
Hiaworthy  
Tor.



FROM GIBBET HILL.

The chief interest of Gibbet Hill is the wonderful picture seen from its summit. Eastward is a wide view of the moor from the Sourton Tors N. to Dewer Stone Hill S., one part of which, that extending from Sourton to Hare Tor, is the finest range in the Dartmoor country. Some of the grandest tors of the moor are here visible, including Fur Tor, Great Mis Tor, White Tor, and the Staple Tors. Roborough Down, and beyond it Mount Edgcumbe, with the Channel, are in view. Across the valley W. by S. is Brent Tor, with its little church, and

further away the Cornish eminences of Kit Hill, Brown Willy, and Row Tor, besides many other prominent heights. A wide expanse of diversified country is seen, embracing a great part of West and North West Devon, and much of the country beyond the Tamar.

North  
Hisworthy  
Tor.

Roose  
Tor.

Staple  
Tors.



Cocks Tor Hill.

S.E. by S.

FROM GIBBET HILL.

Leaving Gibbet Hill we descend to the road near Higher Spring, by which name some enclosures and cottages on the down are known, our direction being S.W. On reaching the road, with Higher Spring on our L., we have Smallacombe Bottom below us, and on the further side of the valley the hill that extends to Heathfield, on the Tavistock and Brent Tor road. Now we turn L., and passing through Iron Gate (but a wooden one, nevertheless), shall soon reach the Mary Tavy Post Office and the high road to Tavistock.

[EXTENSION TO BRENT TOR. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. eastward of the summit of Gibbet Hill is the Dartmoor Path (T. 21), and to this we make our way. On reaching it we turn L., and a short distance on turn abruptly R. and follow it down the hill past the school to the road near the railway station, 1 m., where we shall cross the Burn and proceed to the village of Brent Tor. The people living in this neighbourhood were formerly known as Lamerton Outer Downs. Until the year 1882 much land now included in the parish of Brent Tor belonged to the parish of Lamerton, and the name was used to distinguish those parishioners who lived so far from their village and on the edge of Black Down. At the present time the dwellers in the Burn Valley, although in Mary Tavy parish, are ecclesiastically in that of Brent Tor, and are still sometimes referred to by the Mary Tavy villagers as Outer Downs. But the valley dwellers retaliate by speaking of the Mary Tavy men as Over Downs. The village, and that part of the parish around it, is usually known as North Brent Tor, the original parish, of which the church on the hill is the centre, now being called South Brent Tor. The church, formerly a chapel-of-ease to Lamerton, was built in 1857. Passing through the village, and bearing L., we soon reach the Tavistock and Lydford road at Batten's Corner. Here we turn L. to the tor, passing the Herring Arms on our way.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond this a gate gives access to the down, but if we wish to see the interior of the

church, it will be necessary to apply to the caretaker at Stag's Head Farm, just opposite to the gate.

Brent Tor is of a conical shape, and forms a conspicuous landmark for many miles around. The hill has been fortified, the vallum of turf being still in a very good state of preservation. It is considered to be volcanic in its origin, and a suggestion has been made that to this circumstance it owes its name. Brent Tor is supposed to mean the *burnt Tor*, the word being the past participle of the Saxon verb *brennan*, to burn. But it is obvious that this cannot be its true source, for all signs such as the Saxons would be likely to recognize of the hill having been *burnt* must have disappeared long before their arrival, or before that of earlier settlers who may be supposed to have given to the hill a name equivalent to that under consideration. Another suggestion is that its name has reference to the beacon fires which it is thought were once lighted on this prominent height. This derivation seems the more probable one, but if it be correct we are forced to the conclusion that this merely superseded an older name, since it is impossible to believe that such a striking object as the tor did not possess one in the earliest times. I am inclined to think that the name is derived from the Celtic *bryn*, which means a hill, or mount. In the Cymric-Celtic *twr* (pronounced *toor*, the *w* being equivalent to *oo*), signifies a heap, or pile, so that the rocks on the crest of the height would be well described as *bryn twr*, or *hill crag*, and this name probably became attached to the settlement, on or below the tor. That there was a settlement of some kind is evident from the circumstance of the hill having been fortified. It is very likely that the name is also seen in Brinsabach, a farm on the further side of a combe to the S. of the tor. *Bach*, is a Celtic word signifying *little*, and *bryn bach* would therefore mean the *little hill*. The natives usually speak of the hill and the parish as "Brin Tar."

Several traditions of the kind usually found in connection with buildings placed in curious situations attach to the church on this hill. One says it was intended to build it at the foot of the tor, but the Evil One came continually by night and carried the stones that the builders had placed during the day up the steep sides of the hill to its crest. At length it was deemed expedient to let Satan have his way, and the church was erected on the site he had chosen for it—with the intention, perhaps, of rendering it not easily accessible. It is also related that the church was built in fulfilment of a vow, made by a merchant at sea, and that it really is a votive church is not unlikely. The fact that it seems to have been built by the monks of Tavistock Abbey does not preclude this view. Mr. James Hine, the well-known ecclesiastical architectural authority, states that the greater part of the building is of contemporary date with the earliest remains of Tavistock Abbey that at present exist, namely, the portion of the cloister arcading in the churchyard. Brent Tor Church was dedicated to St. Michael by Bishop Stapeldon on the 4th December, 1319, the name of the parish appearing on the deed at Brete Torre. But that a church existed there before that date is clear from a mention of it in a deed of Bishop Bronescombe, of the year 1269. The walls are very low, are furnished with a battlemented parapet, and are about three feet thick. The tower is forty feet high, and now contains five bells, but formerly there was only one. This bore the inscription

*Gallus vocor ego, solus per omne sono.* There is an east window, and also two narrow early English windows. The nave is only 37 feet 6 inches in length.

Leaving this little church we descend the hill towards the S.E., where a gate opens upon a lane. We turn L. and follow this through the few farms forming the hamlet of South Brent Tor to Wortha Mill, on the hill beyond which we enter on Black Down. Brinsabach, to which we have alluded, is in the combe on the further side of the Burn, which is crossed at the bend by means of stones known as Batten's Steps. We follow the road eastward to Iron Gate, whence we speedily reach the Tavistock road. See *ante*.]

Should the rambler wish to return to Tavistock by the high road direct from Brent Tor Church, he will leave the down at the gate opposite to Stag's Head Farm, and turn L., and will also keep L. where the road forks. Passing a part of Heathfield, most of which is now enclosed, he will reach Pitland Corner in  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. Tavistock is 2 m. distant.

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## Shorter Excursions from Tavistock.

FOR DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS REFER AS INDICATED.

S. Ex. 15.—*Whitchurch Down, Plaster Down, and Pu Tor*, 7 m. Whitchurch Down (Ex. 7). Follow road past Middle Moor, and Monkeys' Castle to Warren's Cross (Ex. 7). Turn neither R. nor L., but follow road S.E. to northern verge of Plaster Down. Then bear L. to the down below Pu Tor. Pass up over the common to the tor. Descend N.W. to Moortown, and return to Whitchurch Down by Quarry Lane (T. 1., R. 1).

S. Ex. 16.—*The Windy Post, Beckamoor Combe, and Vixen Tor*, 8 m. Over Whitchurch Down and through Quarry Lane, as in Ex. 7. Then bear a little to the L. in passing up over the common, following the cart tracks that will be seen on the turf, to the Windy Post near Feather Tor. Barn Hill is L. Vixen Tor is now in view, straight ahead. Descend into Beckamoor Combe, cross the stream at the ford, and pass upward to the tor. Thence N. to the Tavistock road, and turn L.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on the road passes across Beckamoor Combe, where is a large streamwork. The ruin seen a short distance down, above the R. bank of the stream, is an old smithy. From this point make across to the Windy Post, and return by Quarry Lane, or follow the road direct to Tavistock via Moor Shop and Mount Tavy (R. 1., Ex. 7).

S. Ex. 17.—*The Staple Tors and Merivale*, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. By road as in Ex. 8. On reaching the moor continue on the road past Beckamoor Combe (S. Ex. 16), then strike up over the common L. to Little Staple Tor, which overlooks the road. Continue northward to Mid Staple Tor, and on to Great Staple Tor (Ex. 8). Just before reaching the latter the path from Merivale to Peter Tavy (T. 14) is crossed. On reaching this on returning from Great Staple Tor, turn into it L. to Merivale, which lies S.E. From Merivale return to Tavistock as in R. 1.

*The Merivale Antiquities and Great Mis Tor.* Instructions for reaching these from Merivale are given in Ex. 1. The former are

described in Ex. 1, and the latter in Ex. 6. The blowing houses on the Walkham are also noticed in those excursions. See S. Ex. 5.

S. Ex. 18.—*Peter Tavy Combe and Cocks' Tor Hill*, 8½ m. Okehampton road for 2 m. (Ex. 9). Turn R. and cross Harford Bridge. Bend L. for Peter Tavy village. On reaching it turn up by the school; then turn L. to the mill, and follow the path upward to the combe. Cross the clam and climb the narrow path to Great Combe Tor. Follow path through the enclosures to the commons. Climb the northern end of Cocks' Tor Hill, cross it, and descend S. to the Tavistock road. Return via Moor Shop (R. 1).

S. Ex. 19.—*Antiquities on Langstone Moor and Walkham Head*, 12½ m. To Peter Tavy as in S. Ex. 18. Pass the church and turn in lane R. Thence as described in the *Paths*' section, T. 16, passing in succession Boulter's Tor, Twyste Lane, and Stephens' Grave (Ex. 8). ¾ m. beyond this is the Longstone. The huts noticed in Ex. 8 are reached by striking R. over the common after passing Stephens' Grave. White Tor is visited from the Longstone (Ex. 8). The stone circle on the other side of the down (Ex. 8) lies about ½ m. E.S.E. of the menhir, but the rambler must keep to the L. of a direct line to it, the ground about the springs of the Peter Tavy Brook being rather boggy. The way to Walkham Head from the circle lies N.E. along the ridge to White Barrow (Ex. 8). From White Barrow the rambler makes his way over the Lich Path (T. 18) eastward, to the point where the peat track branches from it L., just below. Thence to Walkham Head as in T. 16. The return will be by way of this track to Peter Tavy. If the visitor extends his ramble to Walkham Head the distance will be 17 m.

S. Ex. 20.—*Wapsworthy and Hill Bridge*, 11 m. To Peter Tavy as in S. Ex. 18. Continue on road to Cudlipp Town as in Ex. 8, and then on to Wapsworthy (Ex. 10), passing Church Lane L. Cross the bridge at Wapsworthy, enter gate on L., and take the path (as in Ex. 8) across the fields to Hill Bridge. Return as in Ex. 8.

S. Ex. 21.—*Mary Tavy Clam via Peter Tavy*, 7½ m. To Peter Tavy as in S. Ex. 18. Turn L. before reaching the church. Pass Peter Tavy Inn, and take the first gate R. Follow the bridle path, and at the end of it pass through gate with Longtimber Tor L. (Ex. 8). The clam is just above this (Ex. 8). Cross the clam and on to Mary Tavy Church. After passing it take first turning L. Up the hill to Lane Head. Turn L. for Tavistock.

S. Ex. 22.—*Tavy Cleave*, 11 m. Okehampton road to Lane Head, and thence to Lane End, as in Ex. 9, passing through Horndon, Zoar, and over Willsworthy Bridge (Ex. 10). From Lane End to the cleave as in Ex. 11. *Via Brent Tor Station, G.W.R.*, 4½ m. From the station follow the Dartmoor Path (T. 21). On reaching the higher end of the Redford enclosures keep on E. by S., with Hare Tor high on the L. Straight on till the Tavy Cleave Tors come in sight. The route from *Lydford Station, S.W.R.*, is given in the Lydford District.

S. Ex. 23.—*Black Down and Gibbet Hill*, 11 m. By road to the Ashburys, as in Ex. 9. Gibbet Hill is less than ½ m. L. on entering on the down. The return may be made by way of Brent Tor (Ex. 9).

S. Ex. 24.—*Brent Tor, by road*, 4 m. Leave Tavistock by Higher Market Street. Notice the equestrian ridge tiles on the house L., above the market place. Pass the Union House and up the hill. ¾ m. beyond this Hurdwick, formerly one of the possessions of Tavistock

Abbey, lies L. 2 m. from Tavistock is Pitland Corner, where a road branches L. to Chillaton and Marystowe. Keep straight on, and the tor will soon be seen. The gate named in Ex. 9 will be found R. when the rambler is abreast of the tor. The return may be made by train from Brent Tor Station. From the tor to the station, 1½ m.

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### Routes from Tavistock.

Distances are given one way only. Bearings of Destination approximate.

R. 9.—To Lydford and Okehampton, N.E. by N. (A) BY ROAD : *Black Down, Skit Bridge, Fox Cross, Sourton. Lydford, via Skit, 8 m. Reverse, Rs. 21, 23. Okehampton, 16 m. Reverse, R. 30.* (B) BY THE MOOR to Okehampton only : *Peter Tavy, Walkham Head, Broad Amicombe Hole, Dinger Plain, 18 m. Reverse, R. 30, B.*

[The road route for the most part only skirts the moor. The tors seen R. are noticed in Exs. 8 to 15. The objects passed in going to Okehampton by way of the moor are described in Exs. 8, 11, 14, 15.]

(A) The road is followed throughout. After passing over Black Down (Ex. 9) it descends by Watervale, R. and L., to Beardon, L. (Take-off Stone by the wayside, see Ex. 10), and crosses the Lyd at Skit Bridge. The path to Lydford village branches off L. at the seventh milestone, before the bridge is reached, but this can only be used by the pedestrian. Beyond the bridge the road to Lydford, which is not far off, turns L. The Okehampton road runs on past the Dartmoor Inn to Vale Down (Ex. 13), just beyond which is Fox Cross, where a road turns L. to Bridestowe Station, S.W.R., less than ½ m. At the cross is a comfortable hostelry called the Fox and Hounds. The road runs on through Southerly and Lake to Sourton (Ex. 13), the tors of which name are R. Beyond Sourton Prewly Moor is reached, where the road runs close to the railway. At the northern end of this is Jockey Down's House, two or three dwellings by the roadside to which the name of an old cottage is still attached. Pass the stone cross R. (S. Ex. 34), near where a road comes in from Bridestowe, and another runs off L. to Hatherleigh, and on to the railway bridge, from which point Okehampton is 3 m. distant.

(Lydford may also be reached from Tavistock by the road running past Pitland Corner (S. Ex. 24) and Brent Tor village. The latter lies R. after passing the tor. The road then runs to the Manor Hotel, and thence to Lydford by way of Lydford Bridge.)

(B) The road over Black Down is the most direct way to Okehampton, but in case the visitor should prefer making a detour and crossing the moor, the route is here indicated. To Peter Tavy, as in S. Exs. 18, 19. Pass the church and turn in lane R. to Smeardon Down. Thence by the peat track to Walkham Head (T. 16), from which point the route from Princetown to Okehampton is followed (R. 3) q.v. (This route also shows the branch to Belstone).

R. 10.—To Chagford and Moreton, E.N.E. (A) BY ROAD : *Merivale, Rundle Stone, Two Bridges, Post Bridge, Warren House Inn*

## Route 10. Tavistock to Chagford and Moreton.

(1 m. branch L. to Chagford), *Moor Gate, Worm Hill*. Chagford, 18½ m. Moreton, 20 m. Reverse, R. 36. (B) BY THE MOOR to Chagford: *White Barrow, Maiden Hill, Devil's Tor, Row Tor, Broad Down, East Dart, White Ridge, Fernworthy*, 19 m. Reverse, R. 36, B.

[The objects passed on the road route are noticed in Exs. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 44, 46, 45, 21, 22. Those on the moor route in Exs. 8, 5, 46, 21.]

(A) Merivale, either by way of Mount Tavy and Moor Shop, as in Ex. 8, or by Whitchurch Down, Quarry Lane, and the Windy Post (Ex. 7, S. Ex. 16). Merivale (Dartmoor Inn) (Ex. 1) is reached soon after passing the fourth milestone from Tavistock. Cross the bridge, and ascend the hill to Rundle Stone (Exs. 1, 6) as in Ex. 1. Keep straight on due E. to Two Bridges, from which place the routes have already been described. (See R. 4).

(B) Should the visitor feel inclined to walk across the moor to Chagford he will first make his way to Peter Tavy and Smeardon Down, as in R. 9, B., and S. Ex. 18. The peat track (T. 16) must then be followed to White Barrow (Ex. 8), where he will find himself on the Lich Path (T. 18). This old path will bring him to the Walkham, E. (he must be careful not to turn L. where it forks). He will cross the Walkham at Sandy Ford, and immediately afterwards the Prison Leat. Here he leaves the Lich Path, and makes his way across Conies' Down (Ex. 5) in a direction E. by N., having as he proceeds Maiden Hill (T. 16, Ex. 5) on his L. and Conies' Down Tor on his R. At the distance of rather over 1 m. he will reach the Cowsic, just below its source, not far to the E. of which is Devil's Tor and Bear Down Man (Ex. 5). From the menhir he will proceed to Row Tor (Ex. 5), over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, the direction still being E. by N. From Row Tor he will follow the wall N.E. of it (Ex. 5) down to the West Dart, and up the hill to its N.E. corner, its length throughout being  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Brown's House is R. as he ascends the hill (Ex. 5). From the corner of the wall the way lies across Broad Down to Sandy Hole on the East Dart, the direction being N.N.E., and the distance  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. (See post). He will then follow the sheep path on the R. bank of the river up through the pass above the hollow (which derives its name from the accumulation of sand there), and having arrived at its head will be able to cross to the L. bank. The course is then E.N.E. for 1 m. (care being taken not to bear too much to the L., and so get upon the fen), when the Vitifer Mine leat will be reached. This he will cross, and steer E. by N., having the crest of White Ridge R., and the Leat L. In a little over 1 m. he will arrive at the enclosures belonging to Fernworthy.

[If the Dart can be crossed at Sandy Hole the course thence to the leat will be N.E. The direct course to the latter from the Wild Banks Corner is E.N.E. by N., but as it might not be possible to cross the Dart it is better to go by way of Sandy Hole. The course, however, is here given. The Dart would be reached in  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., and should be crossed near where it begins to bend towards the E. On the side of the hill above this point is the Vitifer Mine leat (Ex. 46), which is taken from the river about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. higher up. It here bends N., and from this bend the course is N.E. For  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. the river will be on the rambler's R. and the leat on his L. Then they will both be lost, as the former, after flowing a short distance N., makes an abrupt turn and runs due S., while the leat is carried from Lade Hill to the N. and E. sides of White Ridge (Ex. 45). Soon after these are lost a little stream flowing

southward down Lade Hill Bottom into the Dart is crossed. From this feeder (the second passed since leaving the river) the way lies over White Ridge, the course now being N.E. by E., and in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. the leat is again met by the Fernworthy enclosures.]

The rambler now descends the hill to the Assacombe Brook (Ex. 21), and crossing this will, in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., reach the Lowton Brook, which he will also cross.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond this the Fernworthy and Chagford road is reached. To this point the line is still N.E. by E., but it may have to be deviated from a little as the Lowton Rocks lie just in the way. The road is followed N.E., passing Metherel, and leaving the moor about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond it. At the first fork the rambler may either bear L. by Collihole, or R. by Meldon Hill. If the former he will reach Thorn, where he turns R. to Waye Barton; if the latter he will bear L. all the way, leaving the down on the R., and will also reach Waye Barton. From this Chagford is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant.

R. 11.—To Bovey Tracey, E. by N. R. 10 A. to Two Bridges (branch off R. at Rundle Stone if for Princetown). Thence see R. 5, A. B. and C, 25 m. Reverse, R. 43.

R. 12.—To Ashburton and Buckfastleigh, E. by S. To Princetown or Two Bridges see R. 11. Thence see R. 6, A, B, and C. Via Princetown and Holne, 20 m.; via Two Bridges, 21 m. Reverse, R. 50.

R. 13.—To Brent, Ivybridge, and Cornwood, S.E. round to S. To Princetown see R. 11. Thence see R. 7. Brent,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Ivybridge, 20 m.; Cornwood, 17 m. Reverse, R. 60, 61.

[*To Cornwood and Ivybridge by road.* Whitchurch Down to Warren's Cross, and straight on towards Sampford Spiney as in S. Ex. 15, but on emerging on Plaster Down bear R. at the fork. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from this the old stone cross on Huckworthy Common is reached (Ex. 40). A short distance beyond it turn L., and descend the hill to Huckworthy Bridge (Ex. 40); thence through the lane to Walkhampton village. Up the road S.S.E. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Dousland (Ex. 39). Cross the Yelverton and Princetown road, and skirting Vennadon descend to Marchants Bridge (Ex. 38) over the Mew, the village of Meavy (Ex. 38) being R. just before reaching it. Cross the bridge and pass up Lynch Hill R. At the end of the down, where a very narrow lane leads into Brisworthy (R. 8), turn sharp R., and then bend L., descending the hill to Cadaford Bridge. Thence see R. 8.]

R. 14.—To Plympton and Shaugh, S.S.E. To Cadaford Bridge, as in route 13. Thence as in route 8. To Plympton, 15 m.; to Shaugh,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  m. Reverse, R. 68.

R. 15.—To Princetown and Two Bridges, E. (A) *Whitchurch Down, Moortown.* (B) *Moor Shop.* This route has been described in Ex. 7, S. Ex. 16, Ex. 8, 1, and R. 10 A. P.T.,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m.; T.B., 8 m. Reverse, R. 1.

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As mentioned in the *Hints to the Rambler* in Part I, it is presumed that the tourist is provided with a pocket compass.

## ROUTES TO CRANMERE.

(The Pool is described in Part III. Directions for reaching it are given in each District).

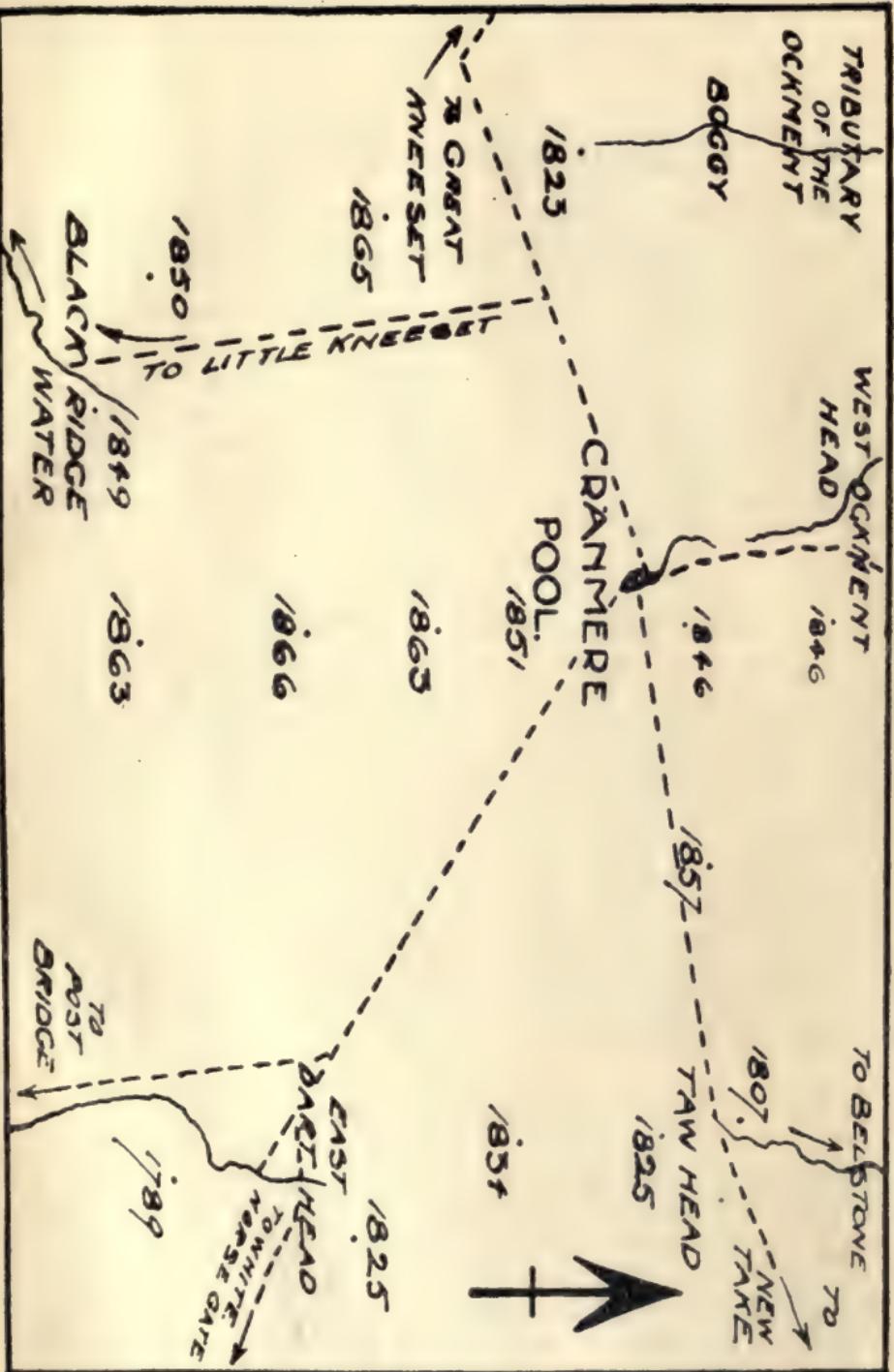
C. R. 3.—*From TAVISTOCK via Pork Hill, 11½ m. To the commons as in Ex. 8, ¼ m. beyond Moor Shop. Strike L. with Cocks' Tor Hill close L.; thence to Roose Tor, N.E., from which the course is the same along the ridge, keeping above the valley of the Walkham R. When the stream bends R. above Mis Tor continue N.E. ¾ m. beyond this the Lich Path (T. 18) will be struck where it descends to Sandy Ford. (This point may also be reached by way of Peter Tavy, as in R. 10). Take the L. branch, i.e., T. 16, and follow it to Walkham Head. Thence as in C.R. 1e., which is as follows. At Walkham Head leave the source R. and bear L. when ascending the further bank, in order to avoid the fen on the summit of the ridge. When this is reached Fur Tor will be a prominent object in the view about N.E. Make for R. of this, crossing the Tavy on the way. Descend into Cut Combe, E. of Fur Tor, and follow Cut Combe Water downward, R. bank. When it bends L. leave it; strike N. across Rush Bottom and over the eastern side of Little Kneeset to where two branches of Black Ridge Water meet, the point being rather over ½ m. from where Cut Combe Water was left. Follow up the L. branch, that is, the western one, to its source; the pool is ½ m. N.N.E. of that point. If the ground is bad ascend Little Kneeset, crossing it N.W. by N. to Black Hole. A branch of the Black Ridge Water comes down from the N. and joins the other less than ½ m. due N. of the rocks on Little Kneeset (1,665 feet; the ground rises eastward of this), and about ¾ m. southward of Great Kneeset. Follow up this branch nearly to its head (½ m. under Great Kneeset), and then strike E. by N. along the edge of Kneeset Pan direct to the pool. Pan L., good ground; fen R.*

C. R. 4.—*From TAVISTOCK via Wapsworthy, 12 m. By road through Peter Tavy as in Exs. 8, 9. From Wapsworthy the old peat track (T. 19) is followed to Brook's Head, whence Outer Red Lake runs down through The Meads to the Tavy. Thence N.E. to that river, which should be struck near where the Fur Tor Brook falls into it; below this, on the L. bank, is Tavy Hole Stone. Keep on N.E. under Fur Tor, which is R., for over ½ m. to where the Cut Combe Water comes from R. into the Amicombe. Leave the Cut Combe stream R. and follow the Amicombe L. for a very short distance, when turn R. into Black Hole, and follow the stream running through it to the first fork. This is ½ m. due N. of the rocks on Little Kneeset. Turn L. and follow the instructions given in R. 1e.*

*From MARY TAVY and BRENT TOR. Route C.R. 4 is joined at Wapsworthy by way of Hill Bridge, or, in the case of the former, also by way of Horndon Clam.*

For Routes from Lydford and Bridestowe see *post.*

# 19. SURROUNDINGS OF CRANMERE.



## LYDFORD DISTRICT.

**DISTANCES. BY ROAD:** These may be ascertained by consulting the tables given under *TAVISTOCK* and *OKEHAMPTON* remembering that Lydford (reckoning the *DARTMOOR INN* as the starting-point) lies about midway between the two, i.e., 8 m. from either, and adding or deducting that number of miles as the case may be.

**BY RAIL:** G.W. and L.S.W., the same as from *TAVISTOCK*, adding 6 m. if for *Down* trains, i.e., towards *PLYMOUTH*. Deduct 6 m. for *Up* trains, i.e., towards *EXETER*, L.S.W. only. *BRIDES-TOWE* Station (L.S.W. only) is 9 m. nearer *OKEHAMPTON*, and serves Lydford just as well as its own station. It is a little over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Fox and Hounds, which hostelry is 1 m. from the Dartmoor Inn, on the Okehampton road.

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### Important Points and Landmarks.

**Forstall Cross—Great Links Tor—Hill Bridge—Noddon Gate.**  
**Places of Interest.** Black Down (*Tavistock District*)—Bra Tor—Branscombe's Loaf—Brent Tor (*Tavistock District*)—Lydford Gorge and Waterfall—The Lyd below Doe Tor—Skit Steps—Tavy Cleave.  
**Prehistoric Antiquities.** Arms Tor: hut circles—The Rings, Watern Oke: hut circles—Noddon Rings, on the Lyd: hut circles—Rattle Brook: hut circles—Standon Houses, on the Tavy: hut circles.

Formerly a place of importance Lydford is now only a village. The Castle is referred to in the *Terms* section, under *Lydford Law* and *Stannaries*. Early in the nineteenth century the Duchy Courts, which had long been held in it, were removed to Princetown, and it then fell into decay. A site near the river is known as the South Gate, and below the church are the remains of an entrenchment. A mound in a field W. of the cross roads in the village bears the name of Gallows Hill.

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### Lydford Gorge.

Perhaps no beauty spot on the borders of Dartmoor is better known than the romantic Lydford Gorge. [*Gems*, Chap. XXIII.] At one point it is spanned by a bridge thrown across a deep and narrow chasm. This is not far from the castle, and visitors are admitted here on the Monday in each week on payment of a small charge. At the lower end of the gorge is the celebrated Lydford Waterfall, formed by a small stream, which rises on Black Down, leaping from a considerable height into the Lyd. To this part of the beautifully wooded ravine visitors are admitted at all times; tickets are to be had at the Manor Hotel, near Lydford Station, where it is entered.

## Excursions from Lydford.

Tracks in the vicinity, Nos. 18 to 30. [These excursions extend over an area comprehended within an imaginary line drawn from Lydford Station, by Hill Bridge and Wapsworthy, to White Barrow and Sandy Ford on the Walkham; thence to the head of that river and onward to Tavy Hole and the Amicombe; thence N.W. across Watern Oke to the Rattle Brook, and to the head of that stream; and thence by Stinka Tor and Branscombe's Loaf to the Sourton Tors. Within this is included the Hamlet of Willsworthy, the name of an extensive manor in Peter Tavy parish (Ex. 2), the boundaries of which are as follows: From Buddla Corner on Black Down, by the bondstones running by Down Pool, Tin Pits, and the Ring o' Bells to Prescombe Corner; thence to Souncombe Head and Souncombe Foot and Beardon Gate; thence to Lisscombe Head and down the hill to Lisscombe Foot; thence to Greenwell, and across the marsh to the Walla Brook, and up that stream to a bond-mark in Doe Tor Bottom; from Walla Brook Head to a cairn between Hare Tor and Sharp Tor; thence to Dead Lake Head and so down to the Rattle Brook; thence to the Tavy, and up the Tavy to Red Lake Foot; up Red Lake nearly to the head, and thence to a pile of stones; thence to the head of the Bagga Tor Brook, and down the brook by Bagga Tor Farm and the Hare's Double to the Tavy; thence down the Tavy to Hill Bridge, and up by the stream on the edge of Chilly Wood to the enclosures, and thence to Buddla Corner—most of these points are noticed in the excursions. The hamlet includes Tavy Cleave within its boundaries, and the beautiful Hare Tor. It is a matter for regret that such a charming part of Dartmoor should be robbed of its quietude and seclusion, but much of it has been acquired by the War Office for rifle practice, as also has a part of Black Down belonging to Mary Tavy. The Extension in Ex. 11 includes Fur Tor and Cut Hill.]

Ex. 10.—*Forstall Cross, Snap, Hill Bridge, Wapsworthy, Linch Tor, Brook's Head, Standon, Willsworthy Ford, Willsworthy Brook, Yellowmead, 14½ m.*

From Lydford village we shall first make our way by Lake to Skit Steps, and thence by the path to the highway. Here we turn S. at the seventh milestone, which we shall notice is rudely shaped like a cross [*Crosses, Chap. II.*] Just beyond it, on the same side of the road, we pass Take-off Stone [*100 Years, Chap. II.*], beyond which in former days a third horse attached to a wagon when two only had been charged for at the turnpike last passed, could not proceed. Passing in succession Lower and Higher Beardon we turn L. into Down Lane, where we are on the line of the old Lich Path (T. 18). [A little

## LYDFORD DISTRICT.

further up the main road the Sounscome Brook comes down from the common, and here on the R. there is a gate. Just within it is a portion of the King Way (T. 26) coming down from Black Down. Higher up the road, and not far from the verge of the down is Watervale, where was formerly an inn, which may possibly have suggested to Kingsley the one he has placed on the common. The two stones—one near the brook, and the other on the edge of the down above Watervale—mark what was formerly the boundary line of Lamerton parish.] Entering upon Black Down at the top of Down Lane, we follow the green path S.E. over the ridge, turning neither to the L. nor R., to Forstall Cross (T. 18).\* L. as we descend the slope is White Hill, and R. is Black Hill, surmounted with the Ring o' Bells (Ex. 9). Quite near to the cross paths the mine leat (Ex. 9) makes a bend, and below this we follow it for a short distance southward, when we cross it, and still follow the track as it runs nearly parallel to it, with Yellowmead Farm below us on the L. We also see Redford, which lies about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. beyond that farm in a N.E. direction. Our way lies across the side of Yellowmead Hill and Snap to the corner of the down mentioned in Ex. 9, where the view is described.

[If the start is made from the Manor Hotel the route to this point will take the visitor to the moor gate, close to the cottages of the L.S.W.R. Co. Here he enters on the down, and follows the green path that runs up by Henscott Plantations, taking care not to branch R. towards Gibbet Hill. When a little way from the gate he will notice Hall Farm on the L., locally Yal, immediately below which is a small clapper. In rather less than a mile from the gate he will cross the high road, and still following the track for about the same distance, will reach Horndon Down Bridge (Ex. 9), where, turning eastward with the mine leat on his R., he will be led to the footbridge mentioned in that Excursion, below which is the corner of the down where the Lich Path (T. 18) enters the enclosures.]

We follow the track across the side of the enclosure to Yard Gate (Ex. 9), and passing through it shall make our way down the lane, noticing Buddla Lane, which branches R., about 200 yards from it (Ex. 9). At the fork just below (Ex. 9) we bear R., and shortly after passing Hilltown Farm, shall reach Hill Bridge (Ex. 8). Instead of passing up Church Lane (Ex. 8) we mount the steps L., of the road immediately after crossing the bridge, and follow the path through the

\* Roads made by the War Office run over this part of the down. These were rendered necessary by the formation of the Willsorthy Camp (so called from its having been first formed near that place). Since that time the character of this part of the moor, during certain months of the year, is no longer what it was. But the camp is usually broken up in the early summer, so that visitors are not altogether debarred from seeing the down in its undisturbed state. I have heard old men, who had lived in the locality all their lives, speak of Forstall Cross as Postall, or Postle, Cross, and as tracks such as the Lich Path on which it stands are often referred to by the moormen as post-roads it is not improbable that the latter may be the true name.

fields described in Ex. 8. This path will lead us to Wapsworthy Bridge, which is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant.

Wapsworthy, which now merely consists of three farms, probably represents an early settlement. It is rather amusing to find the name given in one place as Waspworthy, and to be told that Wapsworthy is merely the Devon vernacular, an idea presumably founded on the fact that in the peasant speech *wasp* is frequently *waps*. Many strange things have taken place on Dartmoor, but it is altogether beyond us to conceive of wasps ever having formed a *worthig*, or settlement, there. The name as it is pronounced to-day is met with on the Court Rolls several centuries ago. Like other dwellers in the skirts of the forest the people of this place sometimes neglected to keep up their fences. In 1609 the inhabitants were presented at the Court at Lydford for allowing the fence called Wapsworthie Hedge, hard by the forest of Dartmoor, to be in a ruinous condition.

A footpath runs from Wapsworthy to Longbetor, beyond which is the common under Linch Tor, but we shall make our way thither by the road. Longbetor was formerly the abode of a certain "old squire" who kept a pack of hounds here, and of whom more than one story is related. The present house, as appears from a tablet in the wall, was built in 1849, and is a little further removed from the Wapsworthy Brook than the original dwelling, the remains of which may yet be seen, including a part of the "old squire's oven." Above Longbetor is a miry spot known as Wapsworthy Wells, and the scene of one of the squire's adventures. Leaving the bridge we pass up the road as shown in the Paths' section (T. 19), bending gradually E., for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., when we reach a gate on the L., where a track leads through some enclosures to Standon Farm. An immense wall, formed of the stones gathered when the enclosures were cleared, will be seen L., and immediately within the gate the turf-covered foundations of what apparently was once a building. To this we shall presently refer. The track through the fields crosses the Bagga Tor Brook at a ford, close below which is a very interesting clapper, consisting of two openings, the roadway being formed by two stones laid over each of these (T. 18). Standon Farm was formerly haunted, but the ghost does not appear to have done much harm beyond occasionally turning everything in the house topsy-turvy. We pass up the road, and presently notice another gate L., where a road runs in to Brousen Tor Farm, and is continued to the ford mentioned above. Just beyond this gate the road bends a little L., and here on the R. of the way, is a green mound. It is known as the Frenchmen's Grave, and according to the story three brothers lie buried here. These Frenchmen are said to have lived in the house, the foundations of which we were able to trace on the turf near the gate. First one died and then another, both being laid to rest at this spot. By-and-bye the surviving brother died, and was also buried here, together with everything that their house had contained. A farmer living near once thought of digging into the mound in the hope of finding something valuable. But when he heard that certain antiquaries in their searches on the moor never found anything but "a passel o' flint an' shards," he abandoned the idea, remarking that he had no time to "draw away 'pon sich foolish 'ole games."

A little further on we enter a newtake, with Bagga Tor (1,219 feet)

**LYDFORD DISTRICT.**

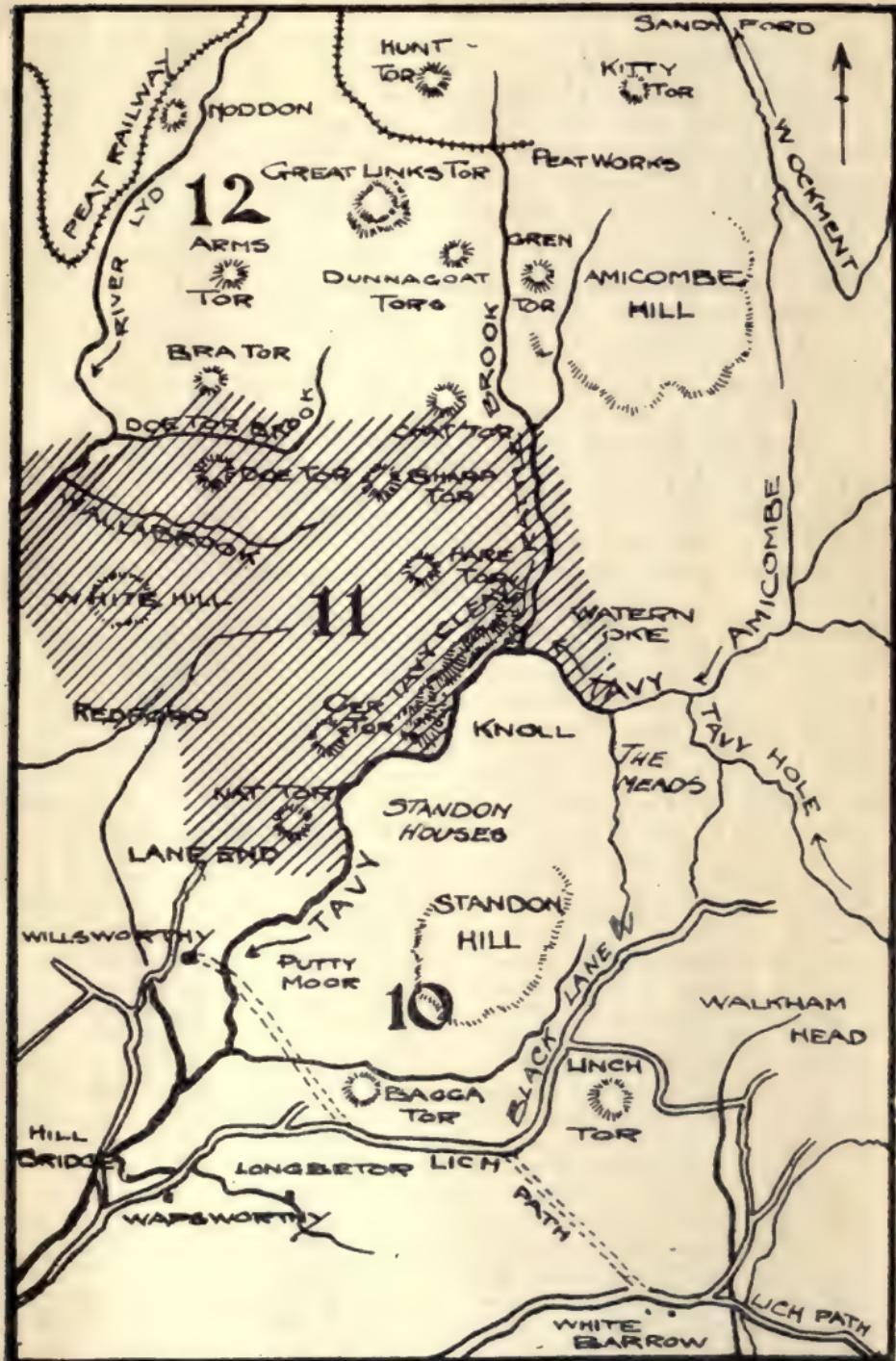
close by on the L., the farm of that name lying in the valley beyond it, to which a road is seen leading. Here we are on the line of the Lich Path, which may be seen coming down the hill from the E., and which ran from this point to the ford on the Tavy below Willsworthy (T. 18). We follow this and shall soon be led to the moor gate, on passing through which we find ourselves in a large stroll, formed by the walls of the Bagga Tor enclosures on the L., and those of Longbetor on the R. At the outer end of the stroll a large bush will be observed in the corner of the Bagga Tor newtake, and which, it may be seen, is protected by a wall built across the corner. Another will be observed in the corner towards the N., and this is similarly fenced against the cattle. These shrubs were brought from abroad, and were planted here nearly sixty years ago. A note of the circumstance was made at the time by my old Dartmoor friend, James Stephens, who passed the whole of his life in this neighbourhood.

From this point the Lich Path runs about S.E. to White Barrow, having Cocks' Hill (Ex. 8) S. of it, and Green Hill on the N., the slight depression between the two being visible from where we stand. Green Hill extends northward for rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., where is another very slight depression, eastward of the corner bush at which we have arrived. Northward of Green Hill is Linch Down, on which is situated Linch Tor, in full view from the bush, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from it, and to this we now make our way. The track which runs L. goes out to Brook's Head, with branches to Walkham Head (T. 19).

Linch Tor is not of great size, and the principal pile is on the slope below the crest of the hill. The southernmost pile is on the crest, and around it stones are heaped in the form of a cairn. This is known as Limesboro, and forms one of the forest bondmarks, the boundary line being drawn from it northward to the pile of stones, mentioned as forming one of the bounds of the hamlet of Willsworthy, and thence to Wester, or Homer, Red Lake. Close to the cairn a small herdsman's shelter will be noticed. The surface level is 1,697 feet. The western side of this ridge, southward of the cairn, which descends to the Walkham, is known as Stookey Moor.

Proceeding northward along the ridge, with the head waters of the Walkham in full view on the R., we shall shortly cross the old peat track that runs out to the ties (T. 19), one branch of which went to the Walkham Head Peat Works, now disused. At that point there is a ford over the shallow stream, and a track runs up the further side, joining the path from Peter Tavy to the head of the river (T. 16). A little above the works is a small feeder of the Walkham, called Ninny Lake, and here many years ago stood a building known as the Turf House. In this the peat cut for use at Wheal Betsy used to be stored. The granite pillars that supported the roof are still to be seen. This is not far below us on the R. as we proceed. On crossing the track we bear a little to the E. of N., and at the distance of less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. shall come upon Black Lane (T. 19), which we may follow past Brook's Head to its termination a short distance beyond. Brook's Head, which is really the source of Easter, or Outer, Red Lake, is on the L. Immense quantities of peat have been cut here, but the ties are now covered with herbage, while heather and whortleberry plants grow on their edges. Just below is Tavy Hole (R. 3), beyond which Fur Tor (Ex. 11) is seen rising grandly.

# 5. LYDFORD DISTRICT.



## LYDFORD DISTRICT.

Here we retrace our steps, and follow the track W. and S. until it loses the character of such, and becomes a mere washed out gully. Then we leave it and strike R. across the dip by the head of the Bagga Tor Brook, and make our way up the E. side of Standon Hill to the tumulus on its summit (which we were able to see from North Hisworthy, *Princetown District*), our course being about W. The view from this point is good. On leaving it we strike N.W. by N. across Standon Down, and descend towards the Tavy. Here in the wide hollow opposite to the Tavy Cleave Tors (Ex. 11) is a group of hut circles, sometimes spoken of as Standon Houses. In the time often referred to as "back along" these, it appears, were inhabited, but the owners were driven away by the Evil One, whose bellowing at night was of so ear-splitting a character that they were unable to sleep. The remains are situated on the slope, not far from the L. bank of the Tavy, S.E. by S. of Ger Tor (Ex. 11).

From this group of antiquities we shall make our way down the valley S.W. by S. to Willsworthy Ford, or Standon Steps, as the crossing-place is more often called, keeping the Tavy near to us on the R. the whole of the way. Crossing Putty Moor we enter a stroll at the end of which is a path that will lead us directly to the ford.

[Immediately outside the wall of an enclosure S.E. of Standon farmhouse, is a kistvaen, not, however, in a very good state of preservation; but this lies rather out of our way.]

Crossing the Tavy at Standon Steps we ascend the narrow way to Willsworthy, and on passing the farmhouse shall find ourselves in the road  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Lane End (Exs. 9, 11), which is R. We turn L. to Willsworthy Bridge (Ex. 9), and here a path will take the rambler who is on his way to Lydford village to Forstall Cross. It runs up the valley, with the Willsworthy Brook on the R., and passing very near to Yellowmead Farm, soon after crosses the mine leat at a footbridge, close to the cross. (This path passes over the ground recently acquired by the War Office). There the rambler is on the Lich Path (T. 18), which he will follow to the village. If the visitor is returning to Lydford Station he will, on crossing Willsworthy Bridge, follow the road and take the first turning R. by Will Farm (Ex. 9), and keeping straight on up the lane will soon reach Yard Gate (Ex. 9). He will now take the path L. to some mounting steps, and will pass up the common, with the wall on his R. Not far beyond the corner of the enclosure is Horndon Down Bridge, which he will cross (Ex. 9). Here he takes the green track running N.W., branching L. at the fork, and will follow it to the road that runs over Black Down. This he crosses, and still keeping to the green path will be led to the gate by which he entered on the down near the station.

[Should the state of the river render it impossible to cross at Standon Steps, it will be necessary to descend to Hill Bridge. To do this the rambler will make his way from Putty Moor to Standon farmhouse, near by, and follow the road thence to the clapper before referred to, and so on to the Wapsworthy road, where he turns R. He will not, however, go as far as Wapsworthy Bridge, but will enter the gate R., mentioned in Ex. 8, and follow the path through the fields to Hill Bridge, there described. (At the confluence of the Tavy and the Bagga Tor Brook, about midway between Hill Bridge and Standon Steps, there are also stepping-stones and a ford. This crossing-place

over the Tavy is known as Cataloo Steps, but is not approached on the W. bank of that river by any public path.)

From Hill Bridge the Lich Path (T. 18) must be followed by the rambler returning to Lydford village, the road taking him by Hill Town, Will, and Yard Gate (*ante*). For Lydford Station he will make his way from the bridge to Zoar Down, as described in Ex. 8. Here, instead of bearing L. as in that excursion, he will make a path for himself straight up over the down, crossing the road about midway, and at its head will find an opening between the newtakes, and passing through this will reach Horndon Down. Striking N.N.W. he will, at the distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., reach Horndon Down Bridge, from which point the route to the station has just been given.]

Tristram Risdon, who died in 1640, has left us an account of Lydford as it was in his time. He tells us that some considered that its ancient name was Lyghatford, and remarks that during the Heptarchy it was a town of some note, "that felt the furious rage of the merciless Danes, but no way remarkable by any good buildings there. For in the nineteenth year of King Ethelred's reign, anno 997, the Danes arrived in the river Tamar, and destroyed the monastery of Tavistock, consuming all that lay in their way with fire and sword, and amongst other cruelties, burnt the town also. A place where no nice nation would have made choice, for the situation of a town so overlooked with Dartmoor hills, unto whose storms, without any shelter, it is subject ; but rather the giant-like Albionists, such as are reported to be the first inhabitants of this island, or at least some of Corinceus' companions, who vanquished these giants ; they would otherwise have found a place freer from the weather's injury."

From the above the visitor will perceive that a great change has taken place in Lydford since Risdon's day. From being a spot of which "no nice nation would have made choice" it has become one much sought after by the tourist. But perhaps the change is not altogether in the place itself ; much of it may be in the taste of those who visit it. What were not considered beauties in the seventeenth century may prove attractive in the twentieth.

But Risdon is careful to add that the town had seen better days. "It may," he says, "prescribe for antiquity before many other of more worth and receipt, to this day. Yea, it is averred, and there want not proofs to maintain it, that it came little short of some cities ; for they can show you where the gates stood, and also the foundation of the walls that encircled it, compacted of moorstone and lime, which they lighted on as they digged their fields ; whereof it may be said :

Waste lye the walls that were so good,  
And corn now grows where Troy stood,

Furthermore, the number of burgesses do argue its former worth, which contained within the walls (as appeareth by their charter) an hundred and forty. In King Edward the Confessor's days this borough was the King's demesne."

Ex. 11.—*Tavy Cleave* ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant), *Watern Oke*, *Rattle Brook Hill*, *High Down*, 9 m. (including *Ger Tor*, 10 m.) WITH EXTENSION TO *Fur Tor* and *Cut Hill*, add  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m.

[The path to Ger Tor from Lane End is described *post*, but a telegraph wire now marks the way. This communicates with the flagstaff on the summit of the tor.]

Our first point will be the N. end of the Redford enclosures. If we start from Lydford village we make our way by Skit Steps to Down Lane, as in Ex. 10. On reaching the common we desert the Lich Path (T. 18), and strike almost due E. to the corner of the plantation above Bear Walls, and under White Hill (Ex. 10), following a green track (T. 22) that runs out to the point for which we are making. We may continue along this, with the plantation L., or may still keep an easterly line, and passing over the summit of White Hill, thence make our way to the enclosure, which is just below.

[If our starting-place be the station, we pass up the side of Black Down, with Henscott Plantations on our L., as in Ex. 10, and when near the head of the latter, shall leave the track, which bears R., and keep straight on to the high road. This we cross, going due E., and shall very soon strike the Dartmoor Path (T. 21), into which we turn L., and passing the Ring o' Bells (Ex. 9) and Forstall Cross (T. 18), shall follow the grassy track with the Redford enclosures R. to the point above named. (The stones noticed near the wall, with the letter H. cut upon them, are bondmarks formerly belonging to the Hamlyn property.]

From the N. end of the Redford enclosures we proceed in a direction S.E., with Hare Tor on the L. This beautiful tor, which attains an elevation of 1,744 feet, is of a conical form, and a striking object from whichever side it is viewed. There is a small grassy hollow on its summit, an unusual feature in a Dartmoor tor, though something akin to it is met with on Longaford Tor (Ex. 5) and on Down Tor (Ex. 2). The view is very fine, embracing as it does so much of the forest, and such a wide extent of woodland and field. This tor, so we are told, bears a strong resemblance to a hare, which, it is said, probably accounts for its name. It requires a very strong imagination to perceive this likeness, one that would see a mouse, or an ox, or any other animal, in it had it borne a suitable appellation. Many of the Dartmoor tors bear Saxon names, their more ancient Celtic ones, if such they possessed, having been lost. Whether the name of the tor in question was given to it in Saxon times, or whether in a more recent day, it is, of course, impossible to say, but it is at least certain that it has nothing whatever to do with a hare. This is proved by an old map of Wills-

worthy Manor, on which the smaller pile to the N. of the main one is named Little Hay Tor, and the other Great Hay Tor. It is not difficult to see how the latter, rising as it does above the Little Hay, or High, Tor, would become the Hayer, or Higher, Tor. An analogous case occurs above Wapsworthy Wells, where a small pile on the slope above an equally small clatter, is always spoken of as Hare Tor, or, as it is sounded, Hayer Tor, the appropriateness of the name to its situation being understood.

A little N. of Hare Tor, and not far W. of the head of Dead Lake, is a small tumulus known as the Hay Tor Bound of Willsworthy Manor, and N. of this is Sharp Tor, called sometimes by the moormen Lydford Sharp, to distinguish it from the chief pile of the Tavy Cleave group or tors, which also bears that name. A century ago it was remarked by an antiquary that this tor well deserved its name some of its points being as sharp as a spear, but he did not say that it was derived from this. There are eight or ten Sharp Tors in the Dartmoor country, and they probably received their names from moormen in comparatively recent times, their old ones being lost. The idea with them is not that the rocks are sharp, but that the pile, whatever its form, is, in a manner, a point standing sharply up from the common.

Having passed Hare Tor, our course being still S.E., we shall soon reach the fine group of tors overlooking the deep Tavy Cleave. These tors are five in number, and the hill on the brow of which they are placed is so steep as to form what is practically a cliff. (See remarks on the word *Cleave* in the *Terms* section). To the N.E. of this group a clatter covers the side of the hill descending to the river, and extends up the Tavy nearly to Rattle Brook Foot. On the further side of the stream the hill is also plentifully strewn with rocks. The view from these tors, or from Ger Tor, is most impressive. In none of the river valleys is there such a picture of wild grandeur as is here presented. [Gems, Chap. XXIV.]

[If the rambler should decide to visit Ger Tor before making his way to the Tavy Cleave group, he will, instead of striking across the common S.E. from the Redford enclosures, keep the wall of them almost close to him R., and when around the bend will proceed S.S.E. As Ger Tor is in full view, although presenting no imposing appearance from this side, there will be no difficulty in reaching it. The rambler will probably strike the green path that comes up from Lane End (T. 20) on his way. The road to Lane End from Tavistock has already been described (Ex. 9), and it now remains to sketch the route from that point to Tavy Cleave. If the rambler decides to make his way up through the cleave, which is really the best way of seeing it, he will turn R. at Lane End and follow the track by the hedge past Nat Tor Farm. He will then turn up the slope L., and crossing the mine leat at Nat Tor Bridge, find himself close to the rocks of Nat Tor. Here a tiny enclosure of the kind formerly built by the herdsmen near the tors, will be noticed, the entrance jambs yet standing. The leat will now become the rambler's guide, and he will follow it to the weir, obtaining a grand view of Ger Tor as he passes across the foot of the clatter that descends from it to the Tavy. From the weir, or Devil's Point, as it was formerly called, the river is traced upward to the

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Rattle Brook. The Tavy Cleave Tors are seen to great advantage from the river bank ; nothing quite of the same character is to be met with on any other part of Dartmoor. The strip of ground at the foot of the clatter gradually narrows as the rambler approaches the head of the defile until it disappears altogether, when he has to make the best of his way over the boulders that completely cover the side of the steep hill and stream down into the river. The return from Rattle Brook Foot to Lane End is sketched in S. Ex. 27.

Ger Tor is easily reached from Lane End, from which point it is in sight, and only  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. Part way up the hill the mine leat is crossed at a bridge, the situation of which can be discerned from the gate. The view of the cleave from this tor is very striking, and the pile itself, though not rising to a great height above the turf, is nevertheless a fine cluster of rocks. That its true name is Great Tor, as some have supposed (Ger, or rather Gert, being simply the moorman's way of pronouncing the word), is, I think, highly improbable. Between the tor and the Tavy Cleave group the hill falls back, forming, as it were, a huge amphitheatre. As the visitor passes from one to the other he will notice a reave having much the appearance of a stone row, and near it are hut circles. Other remains also occur hard by, and at the foot of the slope on the river bank are the evidences of ancient mining operations. Near the rock group is Green Gert, which is covered with velvety turf.]

Leaving the Tavy Cleave Tors we shall make our way along the side of the hill in a N.E. direction, with the defile on the R. for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., when we shall see below us the great bend of the Tavy. It is here that it receives the Rattle Brook, which flows from the N., and to this stream we descend. Crossing it we mount the slope of Watern Oke (Ex. 12), and following the course of the Tavy upward, and keeping it in view, we shall soon be led to a cluster of hut circles in the midst of a clatter. These were thoroughly explored in the summer of 1905 by the Rev. Irvine K. Anderson, Rector of Mary Tavy, who encamped here. For many weeks men were engaged in digging into the hut circles under his personal superintendence, and the work was thoroughly carried out. Flint, and fragments of pottery, charcoal, and the usual cooking-stones, were found, but no object of any exceptional interest.

On the opposite bank of the Tavy, on the slope of Knoll, a hill sometimes called Outer Standon, and erroneously shown as Watern Oke on a map made from a survey of the early part of the nineteenth century, is a large mound, apparently thrown up by the tinnery. At one time they were busy here, as the extensive remains of their workings attest. The moormen do not, however, connect this mound with them, but regard it as having formed a kind of stronghold, and give to it the name of Lord Mayor's Castle. A little further up the Tavy the tributary called Homer Red Lake, mentioned in Ex. 10, comes down from the S. through Red Lake Combe, and immediately below the confluence is a ford. An upright stone will be noticed on the R. bank of the river. It is a bondmark connected with the peat works at Rattle Brook Head (Ex. 12). That part of the moor between Homer and Outer Red Lake is known as the Meads.

[EXTENSION TO Fur Tor and Cut Hill,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. From this point Fur Tor and Cut Hill may be conveniently reached ; the former is

about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant ; the latter 1 m. further. We pass up the valley to the confluence of the Tavy and the Amicombe (barely  $\frac{1}{2}$  m), where there is a crossing-place called Sandy Ford. The Tavy comes down from Tavy Hole (R. 3) from the S., to the W. of it being Red Lake Hill, at the top of which is Brook's Head (Ex. 10)  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant. The Amicombe flows from the N.E., and it is this stream that we must follow. To make a beeline for Fur Tor would lead us over some rather bad ground, and it is therefore far better to go up stream for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Amicombe Bend, where the river receives the Cut Combe Water, choosing a path either on the R. or L. bank. It is not necessary to go

Black Hill.

Fur Tor.



Amicombe Bend.

The Meads.

The Tavy.

FROM WATERN OKE, LOOKING E.

quite so far as the bend ; we may make our way up the stony hillside to the tor when we find ourselves abreast of it. Fur Tor is perhaps the grandest of the Dartmoor tors, for while there are some that rise much higher above the ground than the loftiest of the piles here, and also exhibit finer rock masses, there is not one that covers so large an area, or whose surrounding are of the desolate character as those upon which this lonely tor looks down. Fur Tor is a wilderness of stone. Masses of grey rock stud the slopes that sweep down to the Amicombe and its tributary stream. On one side the rambler may wander amid innumerable lumps of granite, each a miniature tor, as in a maze. The larger masses of this tor form two distinct groups, one overlooking the great Amicombe Hill that extends away to the N., the other being E. of this, and nearer Cut Combe. We shall find the first on the brow of the hill, and shall notice that it consists of six piles of fairly large size and several smaller ones. From this we make our way across the level piece of ground, where rocks give place to grass and rushes, to the eastern group, which is the more important of the two. Here are four piles, the chief of which has a very striking appearance. On the highest part of it are three rock basins, one being so near the edge of the granite mass as to render the result of the action of the water in the wearing away of the stone visible from the ground. On the western side of this tor an immense block of granite will be observed hanging, as it were, midway between the summit and the turf, and another similar block lies on the ground near by. The time must come when this immense stone will topple over ; the tor is slowly going to ruin. Below it, on the Cut Combe side, is a spot known to

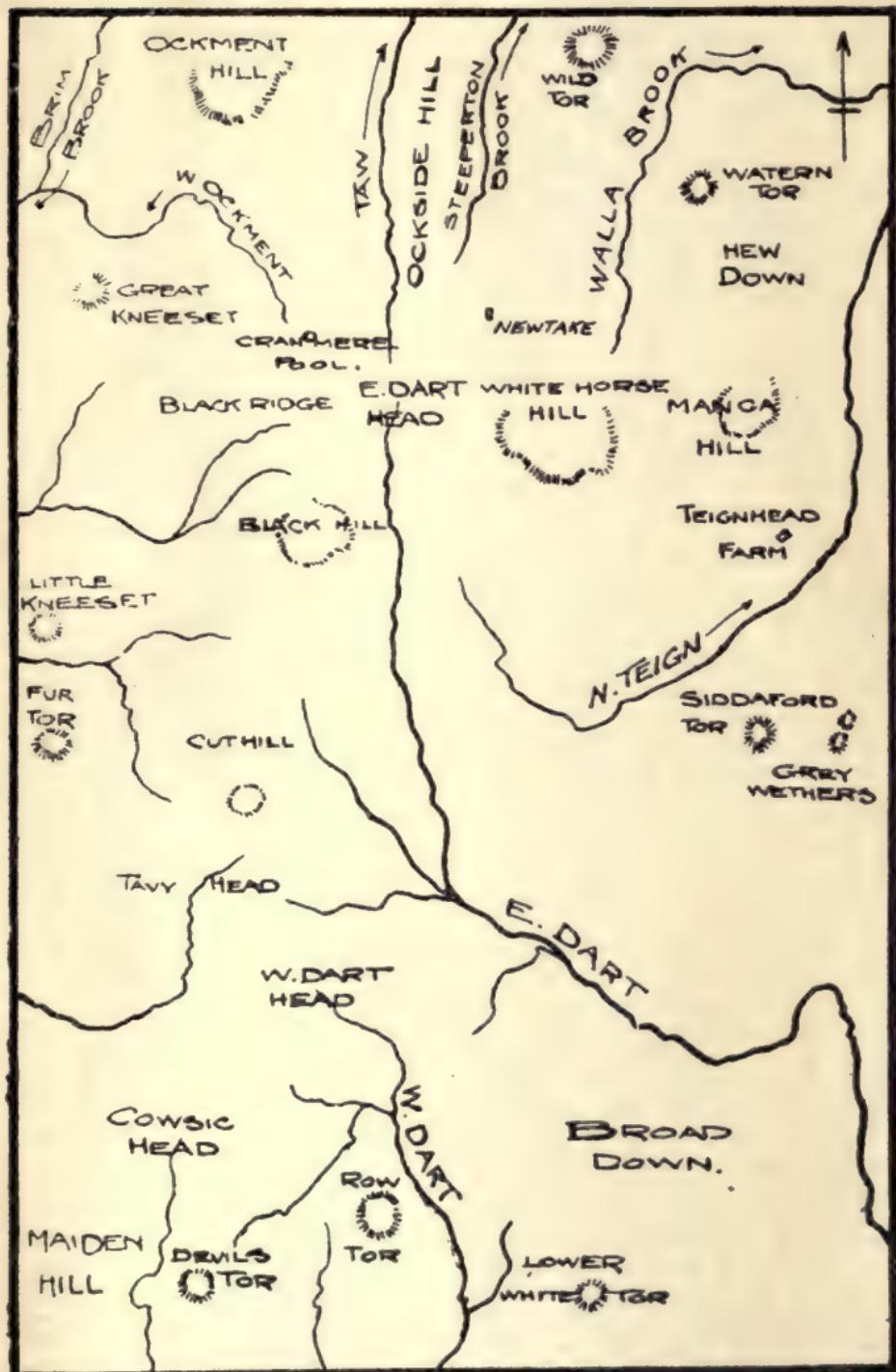
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the moormen as Fur Tor Wood. The name seems to point to the former existence of trees in this sheltered hollow, and the discovery some years ago of oak buried in the peat near Little Kneeset proves that they once grew around here. (For an extended description of Fur Tor see *Gems*, Chap. II.)

Leaving Fur Tor we shall make our way to Cut Hill, the summit of which is  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant in an E.S.E. direction, but our walk thither will extend to about 1 m., as we sweep to the R. in order to avoid descending into Cut Combe. We keep along the edge of this, which lies L.; on our R., i.e., to the S.W. and S., the ground sinks down to the upper waters of the Tavy (R. 3). A great part of this hillside consists of fen, but it does not extend quite to the edge of the combe, so that our progress throughout will be over fairly good ground. From Cut Hill, which rises to a height of 1,981 feet, a view of the solitary parts of the forest is commanded such as can be obtained from no other point throughout the length and breadth of the moor, though for wonderful glimpses of the great waste Siddaford will by some perhaps be regarded as its equal. We have already described the view from the summit of North Hisworthy (*Princetown District*), but this from Cut Hill is altogether wilder in its character. In the former very much that man has done is visible; but here, except for the distant Princetown, and the enclosures of Teign Head Farm, hardly a sign of his work on the waste is apparent. Something of what lies beyond the moor is seen, notably towards the west, and where the hills part to form a passage for the West Ockment to the north, and again towards the east. But it is far away, and forms but a small part of the picture. We look upon desolation; upon a vast wilderness, from which life is absent.

Among the tors and hills seen from this lofty spot, the following are the principal: From W. to N.: Standon Hill, Ger Tor, the Tavy Cleave Tors, and to the R. of these, on the great ridge running N. and S. beyond the Rattle Brook, Hare Tor, Sharp Tor, Chat Tor, the Dunnagoat Tors, and Great Lints Tor; Amicombe Hill, with Kitty Tor towards its northern end, and distant about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m.; quite near to us is Fur Tor, and to the R. of it, further away, Little Kneeset, and 1 m. beyond this Great Kneeset; a little to the L. of the latter we look down the valley of the West Ockment, with Lints Tor at its head; on the R. side of the valley we see Black Tor, below which, though hidden from us, is the Island of Rocks (Ex. 14), with High Willes, the loftiest point on Dartmoor, towering above it; to the R. in succession we see Yes Tor, West Mil Tor, and Row Tor, about 3 m. beyond which lies the town of Okehampton. The view from N. to E. is blocked by the high ground beyond the East Dart, the upper valley of which we look down upon. L. of its source we see Black Hill, and R. of it the hill named Newtake (*Cranmere routes* 5), 4 m. beyond which we observe the summit of the great rounded mass of Cosdon. Over White Horse Hill, N.E., the distant farm lands are visible. From E. to S.: A little N. of E., and rather over 2 m. distant, is Siddaford Tor, quite close to which are the circles known as the Grey Wethers (Exs. 20, 45); to the R. of this tor is a fine view of the great ridge of Hameldon, 7 m. away, and to the R. of that Saddle Tor, with the frontier height of Rippon Tor; still further R. is Buckland Beacon, and almost in a line with it, but nearer to us, Corndon Tor and Yar Tor; Bellaford Tor, 5 m. to

# 6. EXTENSIONS



TO EXCURSIONS 11, 19.

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the S.E., we look down upon, as we do also upon Row Tor, near the West Dart, Higher White Tor, and the conical Longaford, above Wistman's Wood (Ex. 5); far away to the S. are Eastern and Western Whitaburrow, on the verge of Brent Moor, and the lofty Three Barrows, that looks out over the South Hams (*Brent and Ivybridge District*); R. of these, and very much nearer, is North Hisworthy, seen over the crest of Maiden Hill, the latter being only 2 m. away. From S. to W. : 4½ m. as the crow flies the rocks of Great Mis Tor rise against the sky S.W. by S.; to the R. and beyond it, is Great Staple Tor and Roose Tor, backed by Cocks' Tor Hill; R. of this is White Tor, above Waps-worthy (Ex. 10), and still further R. Linch Tor, and the great hill of Standon.

(As in the case of the description of the view from North Hisworthy Tor (*Princetown District*), the reader is directed to the index for references to the hills and tors here named).

The summit of Cut Hill is crowned with a low mound of turf, which, although rising but a few feet above the surface, is yet seen very distinctly even from a great distance. On the N. side of the hill the rain has washed away vast quantities of peat, in one place to such an extent that at first glance the visitor might be inclined to imagine it had been removed by manual labour. Below this the hill is covered with a network of gullies scooped out by the rain, some of them very deep, and this, too, is the character of the ground that extends northward over Flatters, and Black Ridge, and beyond Cranmere. On the E. side of the hill the ground is of a similar nature, and also on the S. as far as the springs of the Cowsic (Ex. 5). On the W. side, which overlooks Cut Combe, the ground is firm and covered with turf.

(The route from Princetown and Two Bridges to Cut Hill is for the first few miles over ground that has already been described (Ex. 5). The rambler may make his way from the head of the Cowsic, as in R. 3, to the Tavy, but steering due N., and trace it to its source, which is on the S. side of Cut Hill. The springs of this river are in a shallow hollow in the midst of the fen, and from this the summit of the hill is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, N.N.E. Another way is by Bear Down, as in Ex. 5. If this is chosen the rambler will leave Lydford Tor L., and will steer N. with the Foxholes Water close on his R., to Row Tor, thence descending to the West Dart, E., which he will follow to its source. Or he may pass up from Two Bridges by Wistman's Wood (Ex. 5), and then follow the Dart upward. Cut Hill is  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. N.N.W. of West Dart Head. Whichever way the rambler chooses the last  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will be across the fen, but he will find no difficulty in making his way over it in fair weather.

The return routes from Cut Hill to Princetown and Two Bridges may be briefly described, as it is only necessary to bring the rambler to the sources of the Cowsic and the West Dart. For Princetown direct he will first make his way to Tavy Head, which can be plainly seen from the summit of the hill; it lies S.S.W., and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. On reaching it the stream should be kept R., and followed for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Here it begins to bend R., Cowsic Head, which cannot, however, be seen, being rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from this point L. The rambler's course now is due S. over the low ridge between the upper waters of the two streams. He is still on the fen, and the ground consequently anything but good. It is of that spongy character which renders progress over

it rather slow. But the Cowsic is not far off, and as soon as its banks are reached firmer ground is found. The stream is followed to Travellers' Ford, about 1 m. from its source, from which point instructions are given for reaching both Princetown and Two Bridges in Ex. 5, Part I. (P. T., 6½ m.; T.B., 5½ m.)

For Two Bridges the best way is by the valley of the West Dart. Longaford Tor, which overlooks it, can be plainly seen from Cut Hill, 3 m. distant in a straight line. The rambler may take this for his guide; it lies S.S.E. of the summit of the hill, and by following that course for ¾ m. he will be led to the springs of the West Dart. In tracing the river downward keep it on the R. (Ex. 5). If the rambler wishes to go by way of Bear Down he will leave the river L., and make southward for Row Tor, 1 m. below its source. Then, still proceeding southward, he will keep the Foxholes Water L., and make towards Lydford Tor, 1¼ m. S.S.W. of Row Tor. This he leaves R., and steering S. will reach Bear Down Farm, and the road near Two Bridges. The distances by these routes are a little less than by the former.

(The route to Cut Hill from Post Bridge is described in that *District* (Ex. 46, Part I), and there are also directions for reaching it in the *Cranmere Routes*, C.R. 3).

Making our way down the N. side of the hill we soon reach Cut Lane (T. 79), and the two guide-stones mentioned in our notice of that ancient path in Part V. Here we turn L., and following the directions there given, shall shortly find ourselves below Fur Tor, and between it and Little Kneeset. On the R. bank of the Cut Combe Water, which will be on our L. as we approach it, and close to where it receives a little feeder from the E., we may observe the foundations of a small structure which has much the appearance of the remains of a herdsman's hut. Little Kneeset (1,694 feet) is a fine hill of good hard ground, covered with grass, and free from heather. It is peninsulated by the Cut Combe Water and the feeder above alluded to on its S. side, and by a tributary of the Amicombe on the north. This tributary, it may be well to observe, together with the lower part of the Amicombe, is sometimes regarded as the Tavy, and thus it has been said that this river rises near Cranmere. Little Kneeset forms a ridge, and springs off westward from Black Hill (*Cranmere Routes*). When we look at the sheltered situation of Cut Combe, and the grass on Little Kneeset, and the slopes of Fur Tor, as well as on Amicombe Hill, we shall hardly wonder that this part of the north quarter of the forest has always been in favour as a pasturage ground. More than five hundred and fifty years ago we read of the *Preda de Vurtorre* and the *Preda de Aunnacombe*, and cattle have been agisted here ever since.

Passing out of the great combe, the entrance to which is formed by the slopes of Little Kneeset and Fur Tor, we speedily reach the confluence of the Cut Combe Water and the Amicombe. On the L. bank of the latter is another good stretch of grazing ground, known as Pinswell, but perhaps our best plan will be to cross the stream, and make our way down the R. bank. ½ m. below it joins the Tavy at Sandy Ford, and a little further down the united stream receives Outer Red Lake, at which point we set out on this excursion.]

Turning from the Tavy by the peat boundary stone, we pass up over Watern Oke in a direction rather W. of N., and at the distance

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of less than a mile shall come upon a very high tumulus above the L. bank of the Rattle Brook, which has more the appearance of having been thrown up by miners than of an ancient mound. Near to this, on the bank of the brook, is a group of hut circles, and further up stream there are others. We cross the Rattle Brook at a fording-place just above where the Green Tor Water and the Scad fall into it, and make our way up the side of Rattle Brook Hill to Chat Tor, with Ker Beam on the L. Chat Tor is W. by N. of the ford, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from it. It consists of a single mass of rock, and is shown on a Duchy map as Loaf, which, judging from its character, is probably its ancient name, i.e., *Llof* (cf. Branscombe's Loaf, Ex. 13).

We pass over the ridge, bearing a little S. of W., and descend the hill to Foxhole, a combe which has been extensively streamed for tin, and which also has been the scene of more modern mining operations, as the ruins of a building will attest. Through this valley, a favourite spot with whortleberry gatherers, runs the Doe Tor Brook, its source being at the head of it, where is the spring known as Dick's Well (T. 28, Ex. 12). We strike the brook at Doe Tor Bend, where the stream suddenly changes its southern course for a westerly one. Here we cross it, and pass down the R. bank, with Doe Tor, a small pile which presents nothing remarkable, a short distance to the L. Very soon we shall reach Doe Tor Falls, a most charming cascade, hidden away in a narrow rift. Above us on the R. is Bra Tor, on which is a fine cross, about 13 feet in height, erected by the late Mr. W. Widgery, the well-known artist, in commemoration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, in 1887. Unlike the ancient crosses of the moor this one is not hewn from a single stone, but is composed of a number of blocks. [Crosses, Chap. XI.] Seen from any point this cross seems perfectly in place, but appears to the best advantage when viewed from the valley of the Lyd, below the confluence of that stream with the Doe Tor Brook. As Ger Tor has been supposed by some, but without much reason, to be a corruption of Great Tor, so there are those who similarly imagine Bra Tor to be properly Broad Tor. It is only necessary to state that an early form of the name is Brat Tor; it appears in a document of Henry VIII's time as Brattor.

Near the entrance to Doe Tor Farm, to which a track leads, we leave the brook a little to the L., and passing down through the disused workings of Wheal Mary Emma shall reach a ford on the Lyd, where there are some stepping-stones. Just below this on the bank of the stream are the foundations of a building of the blowing-house type.

Crossing the Lyd at the ford we shall follow the track leading from it across High Down to the moor gate near the Dartmoor Inn (T. 27), to which a walk of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will bring us. An alternative route to the village will lead us down the right bank of the Lyd. Below the point where the Doe Tor Brook falls into it we shall pass a clump where a path leads to the farm, and below this and near Doe Tor Gate Ford, is the confluence of the Lyd and the Walla Brook. Here a track runs up the hill R. from the ford, and this we follow for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Doe Tor Gate opening on a lane (T. 27). Here there are four large granite slabs, one of them having a socket in it for the reception of the stanchion of the gate, which, however, is now hung on hinges. (See *Gate in Terms Section*). Passing onward we soon reach the high road, and crossing this shall make our way by Skit Lane to the village.

Ex. 12.—*The Dunnagoat Tors, Great Links Tor, The Rattle Brook, Kitty Tor, Amicombe Hill, Upper Valley of the Lyd, 7½ m. Add 1½ m. if from and to the village.*

Starting from the gate near the Dartmoor Inn we shall follow the track already described (T. 28), passing up between Arms Tor L. and Bra Tor R., to Dick's Well, a distance of about 2 m. Although Arms Tor (1,411 feet) does not rise to a great height above the ground, it is nevertheless rather striking in appearance, particularly when viewed from the slope of Noddon (Ex. 13), across the valley of the Lyd. The Doe Tor Brook has its source a few yards S. of the boundary stone, but time was when the stream rose at its foot. Ere it has gone long on its way it runs among extensive workings of the tinners, across a part of which we passed on our way from Rattle Brook Hill to the Lyd (Ex. 11).

Near Dick's Well a branch track leads R. to Rattle Brook Mine, which ceased working many years ago, the main one bearing L. at the junction, and reaching the stream a little higher up. But we shall leave the track at the bondstone, and make our way to the two tors, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. off, N.E. by E. These are known as Higher Dunnagoat Tor (1,845 feet) and Lower Dunnagoat Tor (1,832 feet), and overhang the Rattle Brook. On the further side of this is Green Tor (1,774 feet), E. of which rises the Green Tor Water (Ex. 11), a tributary of the brook named, and having a course of about 1 m. Not very far from the tor are the walls of a building erected in connection with some peat works further up the Rattle Brook, but which were only in operation for a short time. It is now known as Bleak House, a name which its situation on a bare moor at an elevation of 1,740 feet, renders very appropriate. Mr. Richard John King says that Dunnagoat, or Dana-goat, as it is sometimes spelt, is "from the Cornish *dān, under, and coet, a wood.*"\* He takes the name to belong to a hollow. But we incline to think it more probable that in the first syllable of the name we see the Celtic *dun*, a hill, and if the second really is *coet*, or *coed*, that this may have been derived from the former presence of trees in the valley of the Rattle Brook. Even now in parts of it a solitary rowan, or oak, is to be met with.

Our steps will now lead us to Great Links Tor (1,908 feet), about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the W.N.W., and which we shall find to be a grand and imposing cluster of rocks, the several piles rising to a great height above the turf. Though its form is not so suggestive of a ruined castle as is that of Hey Tor, when viewed from certain points, such a resemblance is not altogether wanting, particularly when it is seen from the slope of Gibbet Hill on Black Down (Ex. 9). Looked at from anywhere it is striking, but perhaps creates the greatest interest when the rambler to Cranmere, from the Chagford side, or from the East Dart Valley, sees it standing up sharply against the sky as he approaches the piece of fen surrounding the pool. For some time previously, particularly if from the Dart Valley, he has seen nothing ahead of him but dreary looking peat ridges covered with bog-grass, when suddenly the rocks of Links Tor, 3½ m. away, come into view, and lift themselves higher with each step he takes until they are fully revealed beyond the wide slope of

\* *The Forest of Dartmoor and its Borders. An Historical Sketch* (1856).

## LYDFORD DISTRICT.

Amicombe. The view commanded from the tor is of a very fine character. Much of the moor is seen in one direction, and an extensive range of country which the husbandman has brought into subjection in the other. High Willes and Yes Tor (Ex. 15) are seen to the N.E. and away to the S.E., with only Amicombe between, the rocks of lonely Fur Tor (Ex. 11), crowning the great grassy hill that rises from the fen. Against the western sky the loftiest hills of Cornwall uplift themselves, and when the sun shines upon it there is a glimpse of the sea, over which the warders looked out in the old days from the walls of Tintagel. Mr. King derives the name of this tor, which he renders *Lynx*, from *lynnek*, or *lynnic*, *wet, marshy*, but we fail to see any justification for this. On one side of the tor there is a small hollow—a niche hewn by Nature in the great wall of granite. Little Links Tor is merely a small pile on the side of the hill to the N.W.

[Should the visitor wish to make his way direct to Great Links Tor he cannot do better, after crossing the Lyd, than ascend Arms Tor, from which point Links Tor is in full view  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. to E.N.E. On the way he will pass a small circular enclosure.]

From Great Links Tor we strike E.N.E. to the bridge over the Rattle Brook leading to the peat works,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, and in view as we descend. These works were established in 1878, and the railway from Bridestowe Station for the conveyance of the peat was cut in the following year. Operations did not continue very long, nor have the endeavours to re-start them that have more than once been made, met with great success. We cross the bridge, noticing Hunt Tor (1,843 feet), a large mass of rock, on the L., and passing the peat buildings make our way E.N.E. to Kitty Tor,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. This tor does not rise high above the ground, but stands in such an elevated situation that its altitude is equal to, if not greater than, that of Great Links Tor. The Ordnance Map gives the height of the latter as 1908 feet, as already stated, and the height of Kitty Tor as 1,920 feet, but I cannot say on what parts of the tors these levels were taken. Kitty Tor stands near the northern end of Amicombe Hill, which large tract of pasture ground extends from Watern Oke on the S. to the forest boundary line, marked by Stinka Tor, on the N. On the W. it is bounded by the Rattle Brook, and on the E. by the head waters of the Amicombe and the West Ockment from Kneeset Foot to Sandy Ford. Watern Oke is really a part of the hill, and forms its southern extremity, extending from the lower waters of the Rattle Brook to Amicombe Bend (Ex. 11). A number of weird stories attach to Amicombe Hill. Fires are sometimes seen there at night, lighted, it has been said, by the Evil One, who keeps watch over the men of Tavistock and Okehampton, between whom there was formerly a deadly feud. Satan, ever on the lookout for mischief, is supposed to be waiting an opportunity to stir up the old enmity.

Stinka Tor is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. northward of Kitty Tor, and is noticed in our next excursion (Ex. 13).

Leaving Kitty Tor we retrace our steps to the bridge at the peat works, or we may follow the track (T. 30) that runs close by it, to Rattle Brook Head, and Hunt Tor, on the side of Woodcock Hill. In the former case we pass from the Rattle Brook up the incline of the peat railway for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., where it bends R., when we leave it and steer a little N. of W., and descend towards the Lyd. If the latter route be

## EXCURSION 13. NODDON GATE. THE KING WAY.

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chosen, we shall, on leaving Hunt Tor, strike W. by S., and crossing the railway also make towards the Lyd. In either case the summit of Noddon (Ex. 13), the rounded hill rising on the further side of the river, should be taken as a guide. We should strike the Lyd where a small tributary flowing from the E. falls into it, where it runs by the foot of the steep slope of Noddon. The valley here is very fine, and remains of a former day are not wanting to add interest to it. Just below the confluence, and on the L. bank of the Lyd, is a fine group of hut circles, and a small circular pound. We pass down by the river with Arms Tor above us on the L., and at the distance of  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. shall reach the steps at Noddon Ford below Noddon Gate (Ex. 13, T. 29). On the hillside to the L. another group of hut circles will be found, which, from their proximity to Arms Tor, are sometimes referred to as Arms Tor Rings.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. below the steps we reach High Down Ford, where we shall cross the stream, and following the track shall soon find ourselves at the gate near the Dartmoor Inn.

Ex. 13.—*Noddon, The Upper Lyd, Stinka Tor, Branscombe's Loaf, Corn Ridge, The Sourton Tors, Lake Down, 11 m. Add 1½ m. if from and to the village.*

From the Dartmoor Inn we shall proceed by the Okehampton road to Vale Down, a walk of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. On reaching the common we have on our L. Battishill Down, and adjoining this on the N., Fernworthy Down, but our way will take us across the turf R. to Noddon Gate, on the line of the King Way (T. 26). Passing through this we cross the peat railway at a bridge, and following the old track (or another, made by peat carts, running parallel, and very near to it) we shortly reach the corner of the enclosures on the L. From this corner a hedge runs in the same direction as our path, and forms the boundary of Southerly Down, which is below it. Whether this hedge, or the wall of the enclosures further down the hill to the W. of it, is the Southerly Wall referred to in certain presentments at the Lydford Courts some centuries ago, is not certain, but that the inhabitants of Southerly were often ordered to repair the wall that fenced their lands against the forest, and also the gate by which they gained access to the moor, the entries on the Court Rolls abundantly prove. N. of Southerly Down is a small piece of common called Combe Down, and the Rolls show that the dilapidated condition of the gate opening upon this was also the cause of a presentment at the Court. N. of Combe Down is Lake Down, at the N.E. corner of which is a mark called the Spring Rock.

Passing a despoiled tumulus we follow the track upward, with Noddon on the R. This rounded height, to which the fanciful name of Plum-pudding Hill has been given, is very precipitous on the E. side, where it rises nearly 230 feet above the Lyd, its total elevation being 1,430 feet. As we proceed we shall notice that the hedge before referred to now presents a remarkable similarity to a stone row, and stops suddenly in a tiny hollow, where the track comes up from Southerly and Combe (T. 30), and crosses the King Way. Here the character of the common changes, the ground beyond this point being covered with rocks. We do not, however, proceed any further along the line of the King Way, which the peat railway here cuts into, but shall follow the track from Southerly, which passes under the line. Our

## LYDFORD DISTRICT.

next point is Lyd Head, to which the track will lead us (T. 30), but if we prefer it we may pass down to the stream and trace it to its source. In either case we again cross the railway just before the springs are reached. If we make our way by the river we shall come upon an extensive stream work, where on the L. bank is a small cave, usually spoken of as The Hut. More than one story is told in connection with it. According to these it has been a place where the "old men" used to shelter; a smuggler's store-place; a gipsies' haunt; and a home of the pixies. That it was used by the "old men," or early miners, is not at all improbable.

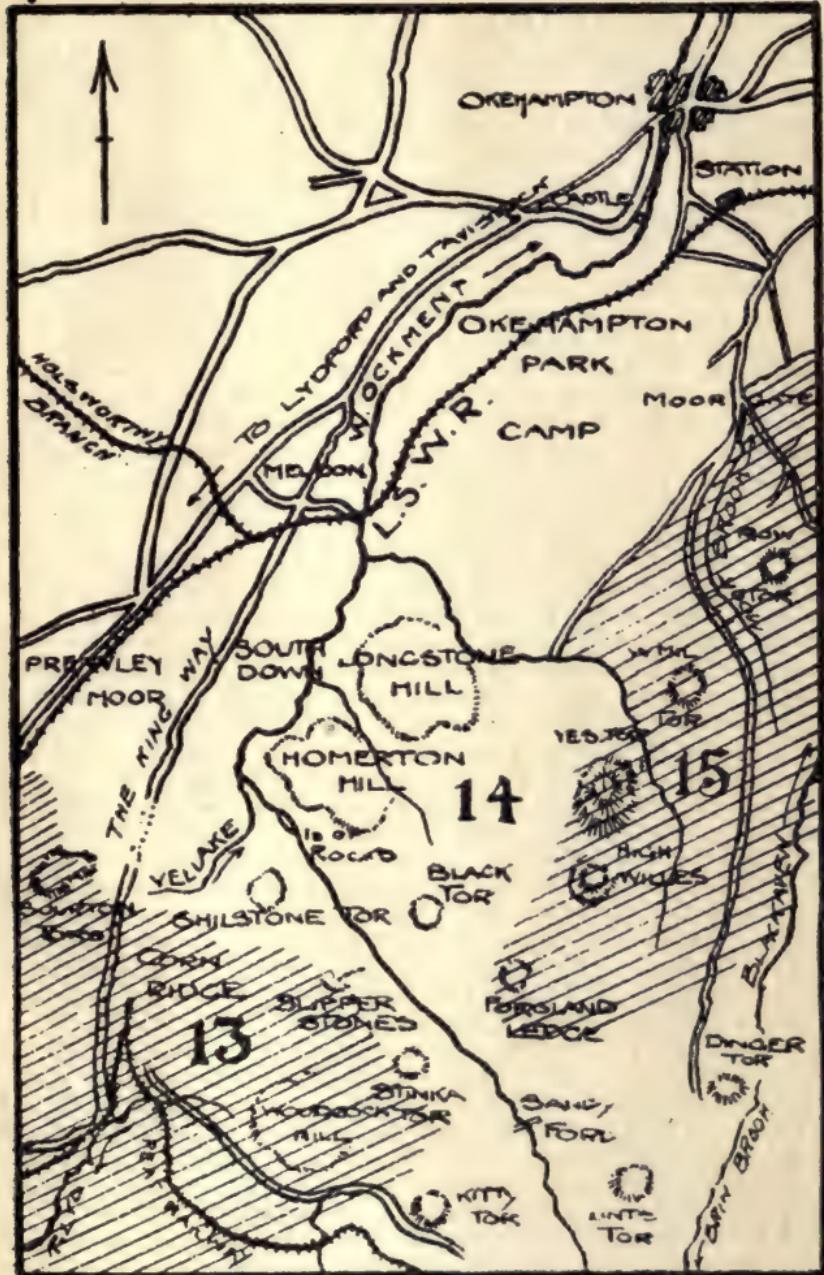
The Lyd rises near Gren Tor, in the dip between Woodcock Hill and Corn Ridge, its source being a mire known as Tiger's Marsh, which runs up the hollow about E. by N. The stream is crossed just below its source by Lydda Bridge,\* a rude structure over which passes not only the track we have followed from Southerly Down (T. 30), but also another that comes up from Prewley Moor (T. 32). Gren Tor, which is a rather striking object, though of small size, is situated close to the track S.E. of the bridge. Like Green Tor, on the Rattle Brook (Ex. 12),  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. away, it is called by the moormen Grinny, or Grenny Tor. Our next point is Stinka Tor, which we may reach either by striking over Woodcock Hill, in a direction E. by N., the distance being 1 m., or we may follow the track for 1 m., when we shall find ourselves about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from it. The latter will perhaps be the better plan. The track will take us close to Hunt Tor (Ex. 12), immediately after passing which we cross the higher part of the mire at Rattle Brook Head (Ex. 12), and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond this, where the track turns suddenly southward to Kitty Tor (Ex. 12), we leave it, and strike N.E.

Stinka Tor, which is nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. above Sandy Ford, on the West Ockment (Ex. 14), overlooks the deep valley through which that river runs from the forest to the Meldon Gorge, and which is noticed *post* (Ex. 14). The tor, which is small, acts as a forest bondmark, the line being drawn to the ford named in one direction, and to Rattle Brook Head in the other. In the 1609 survey of the forest bounds the tor appears as Steinegtorr, but in another document to which authority also attaches, the name is given as Steng-a-tor, or Sourton Tor, the latter having reference to its situation on the boundary line of the common lands of Sourton and Bridestowe, which is here co-terminalous with that of the forest. In 1699 we find it in the same form as at the present day, a moorman of Lydford, named John Clement, referring to it in a deposition taken in a certain suit in that year, as Stinkatorr.

Leaving this pile we make our way in a direction N.W. by N., the Ockment Valley being below us R. (Ex. 14). On the further side is High Willes, with Forsland, or Fordsland, Ledge, just below it in the foreground. Yes Tor is a short distance beyond Willes, and down the valley in advance of us are the piles of Black Tor. (These are noticed in excursions in the *Okehampton District*). Keeping along the brow of the hill, but not too low down, we shall, at the distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Stinka Tor, reach some scattered rocks known as the Slipper Stones, opposite to Black Tor Copse (Ex. 14), and here we shall turn L. up the

\* A corruption, in all probability, of Lyd Head.

## 7. LYDFORD & OKEHAMPTON DISTRICTS.



EXCURSIONS 13, 14, 15. --

(PART OF EX. 13 ON MAP 5 EXTENSION OF  
-- EX. 14 ON MAPS 5 & 6)

## LYDFORD DISTRICT.

hill. It will be noticed that the topmost stone wears the form of a huge slipper. Our course is now W. by N., and our next point the square mass on the slope of Corn Ridge called Branscombe's Loaf, rather more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. away. In the name of this lump of granite we probably see the Celtic word *Llof*, an *excrescence*, which is not an unsuitable description of it, resting as it does on the smooth turf with no scattered blocks surrounding it as in the case of the tors. (Cf. Chat Tor, Ex. 11). But the name is usually associated with a loaf of bread, and it was therefore with amazement that the baker "in along" heard the Sourton native declare that when he came out his way he would show him a bigger loaf than any he had ever seen:—"Us Sourton vokes got monstrous appetites, you knew." Close by is a smaller lump, and the both are generally known as Branscombe's Loaf and Cheese.\* Just above the rock, on the summit of Corn Ridge, is a large cairn, and on the further side of the hill  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. below this, in a S.W. direction, is a short level on the peat railway, where it forms an acute angle. On this the wagons were run in and stopped, while the points were shifted. The horses were then hitched to what had before been the hinder part of the truck, and the journey up the hill was resumed. Between the cairn and this spot is the peat track to Kitty Tor, which passes over Lydda Bridge (T. 30, 32, Ex. 12).

We descend the northern slope of Corn Ridge into the dip between that hill and the Sourton Tors, which are in full view N.W. Here we reach the King Way (T. 26) running nearly N. and S., close to which we may observe a large worked granite stone. It is the half of a trough, of the kind used for pounding apples in, evidently broken in the course of being cut. Near by, and close to some shallow pits, now overgrown with turf, and which mark the site of some long-disused ice works, a row of granite posts may be seen. The spot is known as Iron Gates, and forms one of the boundaries of Sourton Common. The wider gap between two of them seems to show where the old King Way passed. The branch track that goes eastward runs out to some mine workings known as Crocker's Pits.

Climbing the slight ascent to the Sourton Tors we shall find ourselves among the scattered rock clusters covering the greater part of the hill. The principal pile, at the N.W. of the groups, is known as East Tor, that being its relative situation to the village of Sourton, which is just below it. Upon this little place we now look down, and may make our way thither if we choose by the track that crosses the railway close to the church. Not many years ago Sourton was a typical moorland village, but the presence of the railway, and the erection of one or two modern buildings, has robbed it of much of this character. In this parish of less than four hundred inhabitants there was, in 1904, one resident over a hundred years of age, and several between eighty and ninety. Our homeward way will lead us through the hamlets of Lake and Southerly to the Fox and Hounds, 1 m. beyond which we shall reach the Dartmoor Inn whence we set out.

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\* The name Branscombe occurs in another part of the county, and its derivation from *bran*, a *crow*, and *cwm*, a *valley*, i.e., the crow's valley, has been suggested. But the true Celtic form would be *Cwm Bran*. It should be noticed that a combe, known as Corn Hole, is to be seen on the hillside below this mass of rock.

[From the Sourton tors the walk may be extended by descending the N. end of the hill to Prewley Moor, and passing under the railway (T. 32) to the high road, and turning L. to Sourton. Or the rambler may shorten it a little by striking down the hill S. by E. to the head of Withycombe Bottom, and making his way by a green path (T. 31), with that valley on his R. and Lake Down on his L., to the Lake Viaduct. This will be found a very charming walk. The sides of the valley, through which a little stream runs, are steep, and the further one partly wooded. At the bottom are a few vestiges of the old Torwood Mine. Passing under the viaduct the rambler will follow the lane by the stream to the hamlet of Lake, situated on the high road, and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from his destination.]

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### Shorter Excursions.

S. Ex. 25.—*Brent Tor from the Manor Hotel*,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. By the Tavistock road, passing the entrance to Burnville L., and Langstone R., and on to the Herring Arms. Up the hill  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the gate as in Ex. 9. Return past the Herring Arms to Batten's Corner,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E.; turn R. and follow road through Brent Tor village to the railway bridge by the station. Cross this, and entering on Black Down, turn L., and follow the green path parallel to the railway to the gate near Lydford Station. (The rock on the hill immediately in front of the Manor Hotel is Was Tor).

S. Ex. 26.—*Hill Bridge*,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. To Horndon Down Bridge as in Ex. 10, if from the station. If from the village the route will be to Beardon (Ex. 10), thence up the hill past Watervale to Black Down. Then over the down by the track L. (T. 24), which is reached just before the road drops down into the hollow where a little stream passes under it. The track runs S.S.E. direct to Horndon Down Bridge. Thence S.S.E. to the opening between the enclosures (see end of Ex. 10), and so to Zoar Down. To the lower L. corner of this, crossing the road on the way, and thence by the narrow lane to Lower Town, not far below which the bridge is reached (Ex. 8). The return may be by way of Hill Town, Will, Yard Gate, and Snap, as in R. 2. If from and to the station,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  m.

S. Ex. 27.—*Hare Tor*, 7 m. (village). To the tor as in Ex. 11. Thence northward to Sharp Tor, and down to Foxholes, as at the end of that excursion, and home by way of High Down as there described. 6 m. (village). The return may also be made by way of the Tavy Cleave Tors, Ger Tor, and White Hill (Ex. 11). From Hare Tor we strike S.S.E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the first-named group, and then S.W. for about the same distance to Ger Tor, keeping on the brow of the hill instead of descending into the hollow between them. (W. of Ger Tor a track leads down to Lane End (T. 20), about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant). From Ger Tor the course will be N.N.W. to the wall of the Redford enclosures, which, when reached, is kept close on the L. for a short distance. The course is then due W. over the summit of White Hill to the gate at Down Lane. Thence through Skit as in R. 2.

## SHORTER EXCURSIONS FROM LYDFORD.

S. Ex. 28.—*Valley of the Lyd and Bra Tor*, 5½ m. (village). High Down by the gate near Skit Bridge (Ex. 11), or by that near the Dartmoor Inn. To Wheal Mary Emma Ford below Bra Tor ; cross the stream, and pass up the common with the Doe Tor Brook R., noticing the falls mentioned in Ex. 11. Ascend Bra Tor (Ex. 11), and turn N. to Arms Tor. Thence W. down the hill to the hut circles (Ex. 12) ; cross the Lyd at the stepping-stones, and pass up the hill to Noddon Gate (Ex. 13). Take the track R. to the Fox and Hounds and turn L., or strike across Vale Down from the gate to the high road.

S. Ex. 29.—*Noddon*, 7½ m. (village). By the Okehampton road and Noddon Gate as in Ex. 13. Follow the track as there described till the hill is R. (nearly ¾ m. from the gate). Then cross the peat railway and ascend it. Turn L., and down the northern slope, with the railway near by, L., to the bridge. Pass under it and strike down the hill W. across Southerly Down (Ex. 13). At the bottom, between two enclosures, the track R. leads to Combe ; the L. one to Southerly. Follow the latter, passing under the railway to the high road, and turn L. Cranford Bridge is reached in a few minutes. Note the little clapper R. over the Cranford Brook in front of a cottage. Straight road home.

S. Ex. 30.—*Great Links Tor*, 6 m. (village). As in Ex. 12. Return by descending the hill W. to the Lyd, and home as at the end of that excursion.

S. Ex. 31.—*Branscombe's Loaf*, 9½ m. (village). By Noddon Gate as in Ex. 13, but instead of passing under the peat railway continue up the hill, keeping the line R. At the point where it forms an angle leave it, and climb the hill N.E. to the cairn on the summit of Corn Ridge (Ex. 13). The Loaf is just below this. Return by striking W. across the dip to the head of Withycombe Bottom (Ex. 13), and descend to Lake.

S. Ex. 32.—*The Sourton Tors*, 10 m. (village). By the Okehampton road to Higher Collaven, ¾ m. beyond Lake, and a little over 3 m. from the Dartmoor Inn. Turn R. from the high road (T. 32), and pass under the railway ; on reaching the common the tors will be seen just above. Return by way of Sourton village, as in Ex. 13, and home by the high road ; or pass into the dip E. of the tors, and follow the King Way (T. 26) S. It soon strikes the peat railway, which is then followed to Noddon Gate (Ex. 13), from which the route will be as in S. Ex. 28. If by way of the peat railway, 9 m.

S. Ex. 33.—*The Island of Rocks*. By Noddon Gate and the peat railway, 11½ m. (village). By Lake, 12½ m. (village). (*Okehampton District*, Ex. 14). The first point is the dip between the Sourton Tors and Corn Ridge (Ex. 13), which may be reached by the route given in S. Ex. 31, striking L. along the King Way (T. 26) towards the dip just before reaching the point where the peat railway forms an angle (Ex. 13) ; or by the Okehampton road to Lake. In the former case the King Way must not be followed very far after it leaves the railway, as the visitor must not descend into the dip, but make his way across the northern slope of Corn Ridge ; he therefore strikes R., not, however, ascending the ridge, and maintains a N.E. course. This will lead him down the hill to the Island, Shilstone Tor being on his R. as he approaches it. If he goes by way of Lake, which is the longer, he will turn R. at the hamlet, and following the lane by the stream, pass under the viaduct. Then take the green path L. up the steep side of

the common, with Withycombe Bottom (Ex. 13) L. At the head of this is the dip, and the King Way will soon be struck. Cross this, and steer N.E. by E., passing through the dip and descending the hill. Part way down Corn Hole is crossed. Care must be taken to leave the little Vellake stream well to the L., and Shilstone Tor to the R. Return to the dip, 1 m. up the hill W.S.W., from which point homeward routes are given in Ex. 13 and S. Ex. 32.

[During rifle practice that part of the moor in the neighbourhood of Tavy Cleave must be avoided by the public.]

### Routes from Lydford.

Distances one way only.

R. 16.—To Okehampton, N.E. by N. By Road : See Route 9, 8 m. Reverse, R. 30.

[Objects passed are described in Exs. 11 to 15.]

R. 17.—To Chagford and Moreton, E. by N. *High Down, Rattle Brook Hill, Amicombe Hill, Great Kneeset, Cranmere Pool, Newtake, Hew Down, Batworthy, Teigncombe*, 14½ m. See *Cranmere Routes* : C.R. 5 to the Pool, thence by C.R. 12. The reverse will also be found in these routes. For Chagford to Moreton by road see that district. Reverse, R. 37.

[Objects passed described in Exs. 11, 12, 19, 20 ; and in the *Cranmere Routes*.]

R. 18.—To Bovey Tracey, E. by S. *Hill Bridge, White Barrow, Lich Path, Bear Down Newtake Wall, Longaford Tor, Moreton Road*. Thence (A) via Bellaford and Shallowford, 24 m. ; (B) via Post Bridge and Runnage, 25 m. Reverse, R. 44.

[Objects are noticed in Exs. 10, 5, 46, 44, 27, 26, 25.]

Hill Bridge as in S. Ex. 26. Thence to the outer end of the stroll between Bagga Tor and Longbetor, as in Ex. 10, and thence S.E. by the Lich Path (T. 18) to White Barrow (Ex. 8). Follow the Lich Path E., taking the R. branch at the fork part way down the hill. Then cross the Walkham at Sandy Ford, and the Prison Leat at the bridge. Continue on the Lich Path E. for about 1½ m. to Travellers' Ford (Ex. 5) on the Cowsic. Cross the stream, leaving the path, and taking the wall of Bear Down Newtake for a guide, keep it on the R. This will lead over the hill to the West Dart, where the Foxholes Water (Ex. 5) falls into it. Cross the Dart, and keep E. up the hill, with Longaford Tor (Ex. 5) a little to the R. ¾ m. after passing the tor the Cherry Brook (Ex. 46) will be reached, N. of the Powder Mills. If Route A be chosen this stream must be followed downward to Higher Cherry Brook Bridge, whence the way is described in Route 5 (B) ; if B be the route the rambler will keep straight on when he crosses the brook, leaving Arch Tor, which is merely a small lump of rock, L. This will bring him to the Powder Mills leat, which a footbridge near the tor will enable him to cross. Straight on to the Moreton road, and then northward to Post Bridge, ¾ m. distant. Thence as in Route 5 (C).

R. 19.—To Ashburton *via* Two Bridges, S.E. by E. *Hill Bridge, White Barrow, Lich Path, The Cowsic, Two Bridges.* Thence as in R. 5 (A) to Ouldsbroom Cross, and thence as in R. 6 (A), 24 m. Reverse, R. 51.

[For description of objects passed refer to Exs. 10, 5, 42, 41.]

Follow the directions given in R. 18 to reach the Lich Path. When  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. or so beyond the Prison Leat bridge, leave the Lich Path, and strike R., the course being about S.E. Soon the Cowsic will be reached, and this must be followed downwards, as in Ex. 5, to the road. Turn L. Two Bridges is near by. From that point see as above indicated.

R. 20.—To Brent, Ivybridge, and Cornwood *via* Hill Bridge and Princetown, S.E. round to S.S.E. *Hill Bridge, White Tor, Mis Tor, Rundle Stone, Princetown.* Thence as in R. 7. Brent, 23 m.; Ivybridge,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Cornwood,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  m. Reverse, R. 62.

[Objects passed are described thus: Between Lydford and Princetown in Exs. 10, 9, 6; from Princetown to the Plym in Exs. 2, 3, 37; from the Plym to Red Lake in Exs. 36, 43, 33; and from Red Lake to Shipley Moor Gate in Ex. 30. The route to Ivybridge includes the above to Ex. 36, and 33, 32. The Cornwood route includes those to Ex. 36.]

To Hill Bridge as in S. Ex. 26. Thence up Church Lane and turn R. On for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., when some steps in the hedge will be seen L. (These are noticed in R. 2). Enter the field by these, and follow the path running up across it to the hedge bordering on the common, where are other steps. Pass up over the common to White Tor (Ex. 8) S.E. by E., and distant 1 m. The next point is Mis Tor (Ex. 6), S.E. by E., and 2 m. away. But the ground above the springs of the Peter Tavy Brook being rather miry it will be well to keep to the L. of a direct line in crossing Langstone Moor (Ex. 8). The menhir will be noticed eastward of White Tor, and the stone circle (Ex. 8) on the further side of this common. Near the latter the Walkham is crossed. The next point is Mis Tor, high above the river. From here the course is S.E. by S. to Rundle Stone, over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. The wall of the New Forest enclosure (Ex. 5, 6) is on the L. of the path. From Rundle Stone to Princetown see R. 15.

[If the state of the weather is such as to render the crossing of the Walkham impossible it will be necessary to go by way of Merivale Bridge (Ex. 1). From White Tor the course is S.E. to the end of the Wedlake enclosures. These are then kept on the R., the course being S. by W., under Roose Tor, which is L., and direct to Great Staple Tor. Here the path running from Peter Tavy to Merivale (T. 14) will be struck, and must be followed L. over the ridge to the high road. Merivale Bridge is just below. The route from that place to Princetown will be found in R. 15.]

The route from Princetown to Brent and Ivybridge is given in Part I. See R. 7.

R. 21.—To Plympton and Shaugh, S. by E. By Road. First point Warren's Cross, thence as in R. 13. Plympton,  $21\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Shaugh, 17 m.; Cornwood,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  m. Reverse, R. 69.

[Objects are noticed in Exs. 10, 9, 8, 7, 40, 39, 38, 35.]

From Lydford village by Skit Steps (Ex. 10) to the road below Beardon. Turn S. to Watervale and Black Down, and follow the road over it. Pass through the village of Black Down, and by Lane Head (Ex. 9) to Wringworthy Hill—high road the whole of the way.

[From the Manor Hotel the road over the down may be reached by the Lydford Path (T. 23), passing up from the S.W.R. cottages towards Gibbet Hill, but leaving that a little to the R.] At the bottom of Wringworthy Hill turn L. opposite to the second milestone from Tavistock. Cross Harford Bridge and turn R., and keep straight up Batridge Hill, with the farm of Radge (mentioned as Raddyche in an account of the forester of the West Bailiwick of the forest, in 1502) on the R. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the bridge Moor Shop (R. 1, Ex. 8) is reached. Straight on down the hill for rather over  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. to Penny-come-quick. Then up the hill with Whitchurch Down on the R. to Warren's Cross, where the road from Tavistock comes in from R. From this point the way is described in R. 13.

R. 22.—To Princetown, S.E. by S. to Rundle Stone, 11 m. Reverse, R. 2. This route is the same as the first part of R. 20, q.v.

[Objects noticed in Exs. 10, 9, 6.]

R. 23.—To Tavistock, S.W. by S. By Road, 8 m. Reverse, R. 9.

[Objects noticed in Exs. 10, 9.]

To the bottom of Wringworthy Hill as in R. 21. Thence straight on by the high road, 2 m. further, to the town. An alternative route is by the road from the Manor Hotel past the Herring Arms, as in S. Ex. 25. Leave Brent Tor L. and follow the high road past Pitland Corner to the town.

## ROUTES TO CRANMERE.

For notice of the pool see Part III.

C. R. 5.—*From LYDFORD, 5½ m. from the Dartmoor Inn, and BRENT TOR, 8½ m. (Mary Tavy visitors will join by striking R. into the Dartmoor Path, T. 21, beyond the fifth milestone from Tavistock, and following it to the Rattle Brook, or by reaching that stream via Lane End and Tavy Cleave, Ex. 11. But this cannot be done during rifle practice at the camp. The Dartmoor Path is also followed to the Rattle Brook by Brent Tor visitors). From the Dartmoor Inn to the High Down stepping stones, reached by keeping L. by the wall on gaining the down; thence between Bra Tor, with the cross R. and Arms Tor L., to the top of the ridge, and down to the Rattle Brook with Chat Tor R., the course from the steps being E. (This stream may also be reached by way of Wheal Mary Emma Steps, when Bra Tor is kept L.) This course is continued over Amicombe Hill (referred to in 1346 as the Preda de Aunnacombe) to Great Kneeset, nearly 2 m. from the brook. Keep L. of Kneeset when approaching it; it rises like a peak (Ex. 14). From that point, which is reached soon after crossing the head waters of the Amicombe, Cranmere is 1 m. E.,*

## C. R 6, 7. Bridestowe and Sourton to Cranmere.

Newtake being seen against the sky beyond it. But a direct course must not be followed, as such would lead the rambler over broken ground. Keep R. of an E. line and cross Kneeset Pan. When the ground rises a little the line described in C. R. 1e will be reached. Turn a little L., keeping the fen close on the R.

Another plan is to leave Great Kneeset on the R., and bear N.E. from the head of the Amicombe towards the West Ockment, which must be kept L. Continue N.E. and the stream will be struck at the foot of Jackman's Bottom, which is on the L. bank. Follow the stream upward. At the confluence above the stream coming from the L. in ascending is a tributary from Vergyland Combe. At the next confluence the tiny stream from the R. is a tributary. The source of the Ockment is just above this, and close to the pool. A little mining building will be passed on the way.

C. R. 6.—*From BRIDESTOWE*,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Fox and Hounds. The road by the side of the Fox and Hounds is followed to Noddon Gate (Ex. 13), and the Lyd crossed at Noddon Steps. The way then lies up the hill with Arms Tor L., and from the crest of the ridge the route is the same as C. R. 5, as also is the return.

C. R. 7.—*From SOURTON*, 6 m. The pool may be reached from this place by way of Kitty Tor, T. 30, 31, 32, from which Great Kneeset is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. by E. Thence as in C. R. 5. Another way is by the West Ockment valley, passing under Branscombe's Loaf, and striking the river opposite to Black Tor Copse. This is then followed to Sandy Ford, where it must be crossed. From this point C. R. 8a gives the way. If the stream cannot be crossed at the ford it should be followed up to where Brim Brook (Ex. 14) comes into it from the N., above which no difficulty in gaining the R. bank will be experienced. Thence C. R. 8a.

**RETURN ROUTES.** To LYDFORD. W. by S.,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. along the low ridge, keeping close to the fen on the L. Then strike W. by N. across Kneeset Pan towards R. of Great Kneeset. On passing summit bear W. by S. for over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the springs of the Amicombe, and thence W. across Amicombe Hill to the Rattle Brook, which should be reached  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Links Tor. In ascending the ridge W. of the Rattle Brook keep Chat Tor L.

To SOURTON. From Great Kneeset to the springs of the Amicombe, as above. Thence N.W. to Kitty Tor, about 1 m. Then by the peat track to Sourton Tors. See T. 30, 31, 32, in Part V.

## OKEHAMPTON DISTRICT.

DISTANCES. BY ROAD: *ASHBURTON*, via Dartmoor Inn, Black Down, Lane Head, Harford Bridge, Moor Shop, and Two Bridges, 35 m. *Via* Sticklepath, Throwleigh, Chagford, Beator Cross, Swine Down Gate, Hemsworthy Gate, and Welstor Cross, 23 m.—*BELSTONE*, 3½ m.—*BERRY DOWN* (for Scorhill), *via* Sticklepath, Payne's Bridge, Moortown, and Creber Pound, 8½ m.—*BOVEY TRACEY*, *via* Sticklepath, Whiddon Down, Sandy Park, and Moreton, 20 m.—*BRENT TOR VILLAGE*, *via* Lydford, 13 m.—*BUCKFASTLEIGH*, *via* Two Bridges (*vide* Ashburton *supra*), Hexworthy, and Holne, 34½ m. *Via* Welstor Cross (*vide* Ashburton *supra*), 25 m.—*CHAGFORD*, *via* Sticklepath and Throwleigh, 10½ m.—*CORNWOOD*, *via* Moor Shop (*vide* Ashburton *supra*), Warren's Cross, Huckworthy Bridge, Dousland, and Cadaford Bridge, 28½ m.—*DART-MEET*, *via* Two Bridges (*vide* Ashburton *supra*), 26¾ m.—*DART-MOOR INN, LYDFORD*, 8½ m.—*DOUSLAND* (*vide* Ashburton and Cornwood *supra*), 20 m.—*DREWSTEIGNTON*, *via* Sticklepath and Whiddon Down, 10½ m. To the dolmen, 8½ m.—*EXETER*, *via* Sticklepath and Whiddon Down, 22 m.—*FOX AND HOUNDS*, for *BRIDESTOWE STATION*, 7½ m.—*Gidleigh*, *via* Sticklepath, Payne's Bridge, and Throwleigh, 8½ m. *Via* Payne's Bridge and Emsworthy, about the same.—*HEXWORTHY*, *via* Two Bridges (*vide* Ashburton *supra*), 27 m.—*HILL BRIDGE*, *via* Black Down, Lane Head, and Horndon, 16½ m.—*HOLNE*, 3½ m. short of Buckfastleigh, *via* Hexworthy, q.v.—*IVYBRIDGE*, 3 m. beyond Cornwood, q.v.—*LANE END*, for *TAVY CLEAVE*, *via* Lane Head and Horndon, 16½ m.—*LYDFORD*, 9 m.—*MARY TAVY*, *via* Black Down and Lane Head, 13 m.—*MELDON HAMLET*, 3 m.—*MERIVALE BRIDGE*, *via* Moor Shop (*vide* Ashburton *supra*), 18 m.—*MOOR GATE, OKEHAMPTON PARK*, 1½ m.—*MOOR SHOP* (2 m. from Tavistock; R. 1, 15), 15¾ m.—*MORETON*, *via* Whiddon Down (*vide* Bovey *supra*), 13¾ m.—*PETER TAVY*, *via* Black Down and Harford Bridge, 15 m.—*PLYMOUTH*, *via* Tavistock, 30 m.—*PLYMPTON*, *via* Cadaford Bridge (*vide* Cornwood *supra*), and Niel Gate, 29½ m.—*POST BRIDGE*, *via* Throwleigh and Chagford, q.v., 17½ m.—*PRINCETOWN*, *via* Moor Shop (*vide* Ashburton *supra*), 21½ m.—*SOURTON*, 5 m.—*SOUTH BRENT*, 5 m. beyond Buckfastleigh, *via* Welstor Cross, q.v.; or 5½ m. beyond Ivybridge *via* Cornwood, q.v.—*SOUTH TAWTON*, 4½ m.—*SOUTH ZEAL*, 4½ m.—*STICKLE-PATH*, 3½ m.—*TAVISTOCK*, 16 m.—*TAVY CLEAVE* (*vide* Lane End, and Ex. 11).—*THROWLEIGH*, 6¾ m.—*TWO BRIDGES*, *via* Moor Shop (*vide* Ashburton *supra*), 21¾ m.—*WARREN HOUSE INN*, 2 m.

## OKEHAMPTON DISTRICT.

short of Post Bridge, q.v.—*WHIDDON DOWN*, 7 m.—*WIDECOMBE*, via Chagford, q.v., Beator Cross, Heytree Down, and Natsworthy, 19½ m.—*YELVERTON*, via Moor Shop (*vide Ashburton supra*), and Plaster Down, 20½ m.; via Tavistock, 21 m.

BY RAIL: *EXETER* (L.S.W.), 26 m.; *LYDFORD* (L.S.W.), 10 m.; *PLYMOUTH* (L.S.W. direct), 37 m.; *PRINCETOWN* (L.S.W. to Tavistock, thence by G.W.), 33½ m.; *TAVISTOCK* (L.S.W.), 17½ m.; *YELVERTON* (L.S.W. to Tavistock, thence by G.W.), 23½ m.

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### Important Points and Landmarks.

**Cosdon**—High Willes—Moor Gate—Sandy Ford (Ockment)—White Moor Stone. *Places of Interest.* Belstone Cleave, and the West Cleave—Black Tor Copse—Branscombe's Loaf (*Lydford District*)—East Hill Camp—Fitz's Well—Halstock Woods—Island of Rocks—Okehampton Castle—Raybarrow Pool—Taw Marsh—Yes Tor. *Prehistoric Antiquities.* The Cemetery: kists and stone rows on South Tawton Common—Clannaborough Down: hut circles and reaves—Cosdon: cairns and other remains—Hound Tor: stone circle—The Nine Stones: circle near Belstone—Small Brook: pounds and hut circles. *Mining Remains.* Brim Brook: tinnery huts—New Bridge: stream works—Skit Bottom: stream works, and on the Taw above Steeperton Hole and at Taw Marsh.

Other important points in the more remote parts of Northern Dartmoor are as follows. They are passed on the routes.

Bear Down Man; menhir close to Devil's Tor, a short distance from the head of the Cowsic, and to the eastward of that stream.—Broad Marsh; on the East Dart, below the point where the river bends to the south-east two miles from its source.—Cranmere; a hollow on the fen near the sources of the East Dart, West Ockment, and Taw, formerly a pool. [See *Cranmere Routes*.]—East Dart Head; the source of the East Dart, about two miles N.N.E. of the summit of Cut Hill.—Fur Tor; a fine tor overlooking the valley of the Upper Tavy and the Amicombe, four miles N.N.E. of Great Mis Tor, and four miles S. by E. of High Willes.—The Guide Stones, Cut Hill; two slabs marking the path known as Cut Lane, q. v.; they are not far from the summit of the hill, and on its northern slope.—Great Kneeset; a conspicuous hill above the West Ockment, 2½ miles E. by S. of Great Links Tor; the latter is situated on the commons belonging to Bridestowe and Sourton.—Kitty Tor; a pile at the northern end of Amicombe Hill; tracks lead to it from Prewley Moor, Sourton, and Southerly.—Newtake; a hill eastward of Cranmere Pool; on some maps it is erroneously shown as Newlake.—Red Lake Hill Foot; the confluence of the Tavy and the Amicombe.—Sandy Ford; a ford on the West Ockment, on the forest boundary

line.—Tavy Hole ; the hollow down which the Tavy runs just above where it receives Outer Red Lake.—Travellers' Ford ; crossing-place of the Lich Path, q.v., on the Cowsic, rather over a mile from its source.—Walkham Head ; the source of the Walkham, but the name is often applied to that part of the moor lying round it, the highest point of which, on the E., attains an elevation of 1,800 feet.—West Dart Head ; the source of the West Dart,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile S.S.E. of the summit of Cut Hill ;  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile E.S.E. of Tavy Head ; and 1 mile W.S.W. of Broad Marsh, on the East Dart.—White Horse Gate ; a gate in the wall of a newtake belonging to Teign Head, opening on to White Horse Hill, in the neighbourhood of East Dart Head.

The manor of Ochmentune, the present Okehampton, was bestowed, among others, upon Baldwin de Brionys, by the Conqueror. The statement has been made that this Baldwin also bore the name of De Redvers, and was created Earl of Devon. But Baldwin de Redvers was quite a different person, and did not live until later, nor was the earldom of Devon created by William. An extensive chase belonged to the barony of Okehampton, which was a possession of the De Redvers in the thirteenth century (Ex. 6), and in the midst of this De Brionys is said to have built a castle, but nothing now remains of it. The ruin near the town, which probably stands on its site, is of a later period. William of Worcester states that it was erected by Thomas Courtenay, whose death took place in 1458, but any work that this earl may have done must have been in the nature of repairs, since it is evident that the building is earlier than his time. Some parts of the keep, which is certainly older than the rest of the edifice, have been thought to be late Norman. Among the broken walls the situation of a number of apartments can still be traced, but opinions are divided as to what they originally were. About one, however, there can be no mistake. It is a portion of the chapel, in which are the remains of three very good windows. On a stone by the side of the piscina is an inscription—*Hic V . . . . fuit captivus belli, 1809*—which is supposed to be the work of one of the French prisoners of war who were quartered here in the early part of the nineteenth century.

The neighbourhood of Okehampton is not deficient in mineral wealth. At the entrance to the Meldon Gorge, just above the viaduct, are remains of quarrying. A vein of granulite was discovered here many years ago, which was used in the making of a certain kind of glass, and for other purposes. [100 Years, Chap. III.] There is also a deep quarry pit filled with water above the left bank of the Ockment. The locality is now the scene of other operations, sienite being produced here. From the point of view of the picturesque the defacing of this romantic valley is lamentable, but the consoling element is that such ventures give employment to labour. Fortunately the workings do not extend far up the valley.

There are no remains of a prehistoric time on the commons of Okehampton that call for any particular notice, though a few exist to show that man was here in a ruder age. Flint flakes have been picked up, and a stone hammer was also found in the neighbourhood a few years ago. It was of a kind of rough, hard, grit sandstone, and much weather-worn. But if the commons lack something from an antiquarian point of view, the visitor will quickly discover that they are richly endowed in other respects.

For a considerable time a permanent Artillery Camp has been formed in Okehampton Park, and gun practice takes place during each summer on the common, the targets being placed some distance out upon the forest. From the standpoint of the Dartmoor rambler this is disastrous. Firing commences on the ranges at the beginning of May, and continues until about the end of September, so that for the five months that the moor is at its best he finds himself debarred from visiting a great part of it, except at certain hours, and on Saturdays. And not only is this so, but the north quarter of the forest is robbed of what constitutes one of Dartmoor's greatest charms, its silence and its solitude. The area over which the firing takes place is very large, and the zone is marked at various points by danger boards. There is one on the Sourton Tors ; another near Kitty Tor ; one on Great Kneeset ; on the fen near Cranmere ; on Newtake Hill ; on Steeperton ; and on Watchet Hill, close to Belstone village. Boards are also placed on the roads leading to the dangerous area, and they all bear this notice :

**"DANGER."**

" When the Artillery are firing a Flag will be hoisted on Yes Tor ; it is then dangerous to proceed in the direction towards which this board points. It is dangerous to handle shell found on the moor."

Further notice is also issued as follows :

" A Red Danger Flag will be hoisted on Yes Tor every morning when firing is to take place, and will be kept flying until firing ceases for the day. While this flag is flying it is dangerous to proceed within the firing zone.

" Flags are hoisted on Watchet Hill in order to inform the Belstone inhabitants which range or ranges are to be used, viz. :—

" A Red Flag denotes No. 1 Range ; a White Flag No. 2 Range ; a Blue Flag No. 3, or the Belstone Range ; a combination of any of these flags indicates the particular ranges to be used during the day.

" When firing is going to take place a Red Flag is also hoisted on the brow of the hill near Fitz's Well, for the special information of the inhabitants of Okehampton and of tourists arriving at the Railway Station.

" No firing takes place on Sunday, and when it can be avoided, none on Saturday. Firing is only carried out on Saturday when there has been misty or excessive wet weather during the week. [No firing on Bank Holidays.]

" When there is to be no firing on Saturday notices to that effect will be sent to, and posted up in, the following Post Offices on Friday afternoon :—Okehampton, Bridestowe, Lydford, Chagford, Princetown, and Belstone.

" Notices stating whether firing is going to be carried out on Saturday or not are also inserted every Saturday morning in the following Newspapers :—*Western Morning News*, *Western Daily Mercury*, *Western Independent*, *Western Daily Times*, and *Devon and Exeter Daily Gazette*."

All cattle are driven off the ranges early in the day when firing is to take place, the moormen being specially paid for this work by the

War Office. Compensation is also paid to the commoners. The firing usually ceases in the early part of the afternoon.

The military roads in the vicinity of the Camp will be found of much service by the rambler.

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## Excursions from Okehampton.

Tracks in the vicinity, Nos. 33 to 42. [The district described in these excursions is bounded on the W. by the valley of the West Ockment; on the south by an imaginary line drawn from Great Kneeset and Lints Tor to the sources of Brim Brook and the Blackaven, thence across Ockment Hill to Steeperton Tor on the Taw, and thence by Hound Tor and Kennon Hill to Shilstone Tor on the verge of Throwleigh Common. The district to the S. of this line between the West Ockment and the Taw is noticed in the *Cranmere Routes*.]

As the Okehampton Excursions are also intended for Belstone visitors, and as that village is made the starting-point for some of them, it will perhaps be well that we should briefly describe the routes between the two places before setting out on our rambles.

**OKEHAMPTON TO BELSTONE. BY ROAD.** The way lies over the East Bridge and up the Bartons Hill. We then take the second turning R. and follow the lane to the railway arch near the Fatherford Viaduct. We pass under the line at the arch, shortly afterwards reaching East Lake, where the road runs up the hill R. Belstone is about 1 m. distant; on the way one turning L. is passed, and shortly after another on the R.

**By Path to Fatherford Viaduct from the Station.** Immediately opposite the booking-office entrance a narrow path runs down the bank to another, and wider one. This, which is part of an old tram-way, we follow eastward to the viaduct. The side of the hill along which the path is conducted is wooded. Across the valley is Ball Hill, its great rounded form presenting a charming picture when the furze, with which it is covered, is in bloom. We cross the East Ockment where it flows under the viaduct at a footbridge. A short distance up the lane is the railway arch mentioned above, where we turn towards East Lake.

**By Halstock and Chapel Ford (T. 36).** Our first point is the gate of East Hill, near Fitz's Well, on the brow of the hill, above the railway station, and to this there are two roads. One is that which leads from the town towards the station. Just before the latter is reached it passes under the railway and on to the common, up which it winds to meet the other. The latter is now the camp road, and branches R. from the station road near the foot of the hill. A short distance above the junction L. in ascending, the corner of the wall of East Down is passed, and here a track runs L. to the gate referred to, and which is only a few score yards away. (Fitz's Well, noticed in Ex. 15, is on the R.) Passing through the gate we follow the road, which runs down the side of East Hill, to the Moor Brook. (The ancient encampment

**OKEHAMPTON DISTRICT.**

on East Down is noticed in S. Ex. 40). A bridge, built by the tenant at Halstock, now crosses the brook, before which there was a ford here, with a single stone clapper for foot passengers. The clapper is still in its place, but is hidden beneath the soil placed upon it to elevate the roadway. Some years ago I took the measurements of this stone and found it to be 11 feet in length, and 1 foot thick. It was wider at one end than at the other, but about the centre its width was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet. A short distance beyond the bridge we pass Halstock farmhouse, and make our way through the yard. At the further end of this a track runs S. by the side of a field called Chapel Lands to Halstock Down, reaching it at a point known as Halstock Corner. But instead of following this track we turn L. into the field named, our path lying across it, and close to its northern edge. At the point where the track leaves the farm-yard are the remains of some low walls, much overgrown, and close by, in the corner of the field, are the vestiges of an enclosure. It is traditionally reported that Halstock was once a settlement of considerable size, its inhabitants numbering several hundred, and these ruined walls were formerly pointed out as marking a part of its site. The name of the field to which we have referred commemorates the ancient sanctuary referred to in the Forest Perambulation of 1240 as St. Michael's Chapel of Halstock. Little more, however, than its name now remains. Its site is marked by some grass-covered banks, on which grow two storm-stricken thorns, but there are no traces of masonry. The Rev. H. G. Fothergill, a former Rector of Belstone, left some manuscript notes to a work written about 1839, by William Bridges, entitled, *Some Account of the Barony and Town of Okehampton*, and these were printed in a new edition published in 1889. These notes contain some references to the chapel, of which Mr. Fothergill took measurements. He found it to be nine paces in length and four in width on the inside, and says it was enclosed in a sort of court measuring 23 paces by 13, at the western end of which were traces of a belfry or vestry. Some years ago I also carefully measured it, and found it to be 40 feet long, and 24 feet wide; and the court in which it stands 90 feet by 57 feet. The foundations of what Mr. Fothergill supposed to be those of a belfry, or vestry, cover a space 30 feet by 25 feet. These are external measurements. Halstock Chapel, together with the church of Okehampton, belonged to Cowick Priory, in the parish of St. Thomas-by-Exeter, which at its foundation was subordinate to the great abbey of Bec, in Normandy. About the middle of the fifteenth century, on the resignation of the prior, Henry VI. applied the revenues of the priory to Eton College, but Edward IV. transferred the gift to the Abbey of Tavistock. The remains of the chapel are in the S. part of the field, the site being marked by the two thorns. The view from the chapel is very fine, embracing towards the N. much that is seen from the brow of the hill near Fitz's Well. Across the valley eastward is the Belstone range of tors, and beyond that part of the Moor Brook Valley known as Halstock Cleave (S. Ex. 41) is seen the beautiful Ashbury Tor, from nowhere beheld to greater advantage. Close to this are the mounds of the ancient entrenchment already alluded to (S. Ex. 40).

Passing across Chapel Lands to its N.E. corner, near which we shall observe three stones curiously placed, we make our way by a narrow path down through Halstock Wood to Chapel Ford (T. 36).

on the East Ockment, supposed to be identical with that mentioned in the Perambulation of 1240, and the Survey of 1609. Here are stepping-stones by which we may cross, although this is not to be done when the stream is in flood. The track runs up the side of the hill L. from the ford, and will bring us very near to Cleave Tor (S. Ex. 41), where is a stroll R. Into this we turn, and passing through a moor gate opening upon a narrow lane shall speedily reach the road coming up L. from East Lake (see *ante*), where we turn R. and follow it direct to Belstone.

**BELSTONE TO OKEHAMPTON.** (Reverse of the preceding, q.v., for descriptions). BY ROAD. Old vicarage gate ; straight down the hill to East Lake ; turn L. to railway arch ; cross road, and up the lane to the highway ; turn L. down Bartons Hill to the town.

*Path to Station from Fatherford Viaduct.* As above to the railway arch ; then down L. to the viaduct ; cross the Ockment at the footbridge, and follow the path, with the railway above L., to the station.

*By Chapel Ford and Halstock* (T. 36). Old vicarage gate ; a short distance beyond turn L. to the common ; leave Cleave Tor on R. ; descend by the track L. to Chapel Ford ; cross the Ockment ; follow path R. up through Halstock Wood to Chapel Lands ; cross this to Halstock Farm and on to the bridge over Moor Brook ; pass up with wall on L. to gate, outside which the road leads down the hill. Through the gate in the corner R. for the station ; down L. for the town.

**BY ROAD TO STICKLEPATH, WITH BRANCH TO BELSTONE.** This forms the best carriage road to Belstone,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  m. ; Sticklepath is situated at the foot of Cosdon, on the direct road to Exeter, and is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the town. We cross the East Bridge and make our way up the Bartons Hill. One mile from the bridge we pass over the railway, close to Fatherford farmhouse, which lies L. (The road R. runs down to Fatherford Viaduct).  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on we reach a small piece of common known as Tongue End, where a road turns up the hill R. for Belstone, close to a large parish boundary stone. (This road branches near the top of the little common ; keep R. for the village, which is about 1 m. distant). On the L. as we proceed towards Sticklepath is Combeshead Farm, well named from its situation, where, it is said, some Royalist troopers once hid themselves, and cut off the cock's head, lest his crowing should draw attention to their place of refuge.\* Just beyond this a lane branches L. to Bude Farm, and here is an ancient stone, having markings on three of its sides. [See *Crosses*, Chap. XI., where also the stones at Sticklepath and Belstone are described.] About  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. further on Sticklepath is reached.

*Reverse.*—Pass up the western road by Lady Well, leaving the school L. ; then Bude Lane is passed R. ; then Combeshead also R. ; Tongue End ; the railway bridge near Fatherford Farm ; pass down the Bartons Hill to the town.

\* Fothergill's Notes to Bridges' Barony and Town of Okehampton.

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Ex. 14.—*Meldon, The Island of Rocks, Black Tor Copse, Sandy Ford [High Willes, Yes Tor], Lints Tor, Dinger Tor, about 11 m. With Extension to Great Kneeset, about 2½ m. more.*

Our road from the town will lead us by the Union House to the northern slope of Okehampton Park. But if our starting-point be the station we pass along by the houses facing the railway to Westhill Villa, where we reach the camp road. Here a gate will give us admittance to the park, and our path will soon effect a junction with the lower one. As we proceed we have a view of the castle on the further side of the river, which flows at the foot of the hill. Parts of the ruin are hidden by the trees, but the keep is lifted high above them. On the hill-side across which our way lies are numerous ancient hollies, some of them being of considerable size. When about 2 m. from the town we draw near the Ockment, which is spanned by the lofty Meldon Viaduct. On the further side of the stream the grey rocks of Burrow Cleave, or Cliff, draped with creeping plants, rise from amid the trees, and here a track leads up to the hamlet of Meldon (S. Ex. 34).

We here enter Meldon Gorge, which extends from this point to Vellake Corner. A track runs up the hill L., and after crossing a part of Black Down, reaches the Redaven (T. 33)\*; but we shall follow the one on the R. bank of the Ockment (T. 33), leaving it, however, at the point where the Redaven falls into that stream. On crossing the affluent the track ascends Longstone Hill L., a name perhaps derived from a menhir, though none exists there now (cf Longstone, Ex. 7), but we pass along at its foot. High above the W. bank of the river is Meldon Down, on which, in 1643, an encounter took place during a stormy night between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians under Major James Chudleigh, who was quartered at Okehampton at the time. Much of the down has probably since been covered with fields. We shall notice a track running down the side of it to a ford (T. 33), where also are some stepping-stones called Higher Bowden Steps (S. Ex. 35).  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond these we reach a little tributary stream separating Longstone Hill from Homerton Hill, the great rounded eminence we now see rising before us. This tributary is sometimes known as the Homerton Brook, but its true name is the Fishcombe Water. It has its source in a charming little hollow, where dwarf oaks grow, high up on the hill. At the point where it falls into the Ockment are the long deserted workings of Homerton Mine.

Homerton Hill is exceedingly steep, and sweeps down abruptly to a piece of level ground, around which the river makes a bend. We do not here follow the course of the latter, but pass along the foot of the hill, meeting it again further up. The high ground that rises before us is Corn Ridge, near the summit of which is Branscombe's Loaf (Ex. 13). As we pass round the base of Homerton we notice a small

\* Pronounced Red-a-ven, with the stress on the last syllable.

<sup>a</sup> Strangers sometimes lay this on the *a*, which is wrong. The name has nothing to do with *avon*, water. It is really the *red fen* brook, the Dartmoor vernacular being responsible for the change of the *f* into *v*, <sup>sh</sup> id for the insertion of the *a*. Another stream in the locality is the <sup>na</sup> lackaven; in this name the stress is similarly on the last syllable.

stream coming down from the S.W. The point where it falls into the Ockment is known as Vellake Corner, and forms one of the bounds between the commons of Okehampton and Sourton. The little Vellake rises not far below Iron Gates (Ex. 13), and one tiny feeder, dry in summer, runs into it from Corn Hole (Ex. 13). Here we leave Meldon Gorge and enter the narrow valley that extends up into the forest, where the hills on either side rise to a still greater height, and where the scenery becomes even more wild and grand than that through which we have just passed. We again welcome the river, which is to be our companion through the defile, and shall make for ourselves a path above its eastern bank. Speedily the character of our surroundings begins to change, and ere we have advanced many steps we look upon a picture not surpassed on Dartmoor for a happy mingling of the stern and rugged with that which is beautiful. Below us, in a wild glen, is the Island of Rocks [described in *Gems*, Chap. IV.] thickly clothed with low trees and bushes, a cascade at its upper end and another at its lower. Above it is a deep and narrow gorge, down which the river rushes as through a long, darkened trough. Trees grow on the steep banks, and the grey granite is partly covered with ivy and creeping plants. At its head we may make our way on the boulders to the centre of the stream, and look down through this miniature canyon, whence comes the never-ceasing roar of the waters.

[Should the visitor desire to cross the Ockment he will find one or two places either below the Island, or at the head of the gorge, where he may do so. A route to the Island *via* Meldon, and by the L. bank, is given *post*, S. Ex. 35.]

On the side of the hill above the L. bank of the Ockment is Shilstone Tor, the name being, perhaps, a corruption of *shelf stone*, or hanging stone, but not necessarily an artificially placed one. On the other side of the valley, *i.e.*, the eastern side, but further from us, and at a much greater elevation, is Black Tor (S. Ex. 36). Viewed from below the Island of Rocks this tor appears to consist of one pile only, but from the point we have now reached its triple crown is plainly seen. Passing upward we shortly reach another small island, but of a character altogether different from the former, its level surface being covered with turf and patches of heather. About 100 yards above it the river falls over a ledge of rocks, forming a fine cascade ; near by some withies are growing, and on the L. bank is a huge lump of granite partially covered with ivy. In our progress up this part of the valley we shall not fail to be struck with the number of bushes of various kinds that grow near the river, and above all shall note the presence of several dwarf oaks. By-and-bye the latter become more numerous, and then it is seen that an oak wood, similar to Wistman's Wood on the Dart (Ex. 5), fills part of the valley. It is situated below the triple tor from which it took its ancient name of Black Torre Beare, now however, being known as Black Tor Copse. Documentary evidence exists showing that this wood was once very much more extensive than at present : it probably stretched from the Island of Rocks into the forest. There is mention of it by the jurors of the 1609 Survey, and also in the Lydford Court Rolls of the time of Elizabeth. On the W. bank of the Ockment, above the small hollow opposite to which the upper island referred to is situated, is another and a larger one, named Hawks' Hollow. It forms a kind of huge amphitheatre, above

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which are the masses of granite called the Slipper Stones (Ex. 13). Its lower part is covered with some old tin workings known as Crocker's Pits.

As we make our way up the valley a hill crowned with rocks that have very much the appearance of a tower comes into view at the head of it. This is Lints Tor, and although it rises to a height of 1,605 feet, it looks almost low against the hills on either side. Passing the ancient wood, and finding for ourselves a path along the foot of the steep declivity under Forsland Ledge (Ex. 15), we reach Sandy Ford, to which the forest boundary line comes down from Stinka Tor (Ex. 13), and which is named as one of the bondmarks.

Here a boundary stone will be noticed ; it marks the line which is drawn up the hill N.E., between the forest and Okehampton Common. There is abundant evidence that this line formerly ran from the ford to High Willes, and thence to Mil Tor and Row Tor (see *Perambulation* in the *Terms* section), and consequently much that is now reckoned as forming part of the common was once within the bounds of the royal hunting-ground.

[High Willes and Yes Tor may be ascended from Sandy Ford, but the climb is a long one. The first named height is nearly a mile from the ford in a N.N.E. direction, and 700 feet above it. These points are noticed in Ex. 15.]

[*Extension to Great Kneeset.* About  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. above Sandy Ford is Kneeset Foot, where the little tributary referred to in R. 3 comes down from Broad Amicombe Hole. To the L., or S. of it, is Great Kneeset, which may be readily reached from the ford by tracing the Ockment upward, following the R. bank to the first sharp bend,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. above the point where the tributary falls into it. From this bend, where the course of the Ockment is changed from S.S.W. to N.N.W., the summit of Kneeset is distant hardly  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. E.S.E., and here the river must be crossed. No tor crowns this hill, only a few small rocks nearly on a level with the ground. It is, however, well worth ascending, as it commands a fine view of the range capped by Willes (Ex. 15) N.N.W. to N. and Ockment Hill (Ex. 16) N.E. ; the Cranmere fen and Black Ridge on the E. and S.E. ; Little Kneeset (Ex. 11 and C.R. 1e) and Fur Tor (Ex. 11) to the S. ; and Amicombe Hill (Ex. 12), backed by the lofty range of which Great Links Tor (Ex. 12) is the highest point, on the W. N.E. of the summit of Great Kneeset is a hollow known as Jackman's Bottom, through which a tiny feeder trickles to the Ockment. The Kneeset surroundings are noticed in C.R. 5. The rambler, instead of keeping close to the river on leaving Sandy Ford for Kneeset, may take Lints Tor, which rises above its R. bank, on his way. If he does this he will cross the Ockment about midway between the bend before named, and another over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. above it, called Kneeset Nose, where the river receives Brim Brook. He will find no difficulty in doing this, Kneeset being in full view from Lints Tor. It lies S.E. by S., and is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. The return from Kneeset may be made either by way of the lower bend, W.N.W. from the summit, when the Ockment will be followed downward, or by Kneeset Nose, N. by W., in which case Brim Brook, which flows from the north, will be followed up nearly to its source, less than 1 m., when the rambler will turn up the hill L.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Dinger Tor. See S. Ex. 37.]

Above Sandy Ford the Lints Tor Brook falls into the Ockment, and on reaching this point we leave the river and make our way direct to the tor, which is close at hand L. After having viewed this curious pile we turn N.E. by N., and pass up the hill to the single mass of rock known as Dinger Tor, 1,810 feet. (The summit of High Willes is  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. N.W. by N. See R. 15). Here we are on the line of the ancient track from Okehampton to Post Bridge (T. 34, 79, 78), that part of it running out to the tor being still used as already stated (T. 34) for the conveyance of peat. Near by a number of ties will be seen. The track, which will be struck a little way beyond the tor, runs northward between West Mil Tor L., and Row Tor R., and will bring the rambler to Moor Gate, which opens upon Okehampton Park. This part of it is noticed the reverse way in Ex. 15. From Moor Gate we follow the road across the park, taking care not to turn L., and at the distance of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. shall pass Fitz's Well, which is close to a hedge L. (Ex. 15). Just below this the road turns abruptly to the L. at a gate. If the rambler is making his way to the station he will pass through this; if to the town, he may either take that way or follow the road down the hill.

Ex. 15.—*Yes Tor, High Willes, Forsland Ledge, Dinger Plain, West Mil Tor, Row Tor, about 9½ m. To Yes Tor direct (via Redaven Ford), 4 m.*

The route to Fitz's Well, which is our first point, has already been sketched (*Okehampton to Belstone Routes*). On reaching the brow of the hill the old cross that marks the spring will be seen R. For many years this lay on the ground neglected, but it is now set upon a mound, built of earth and stone. Tradition says that the cross was brought from St. Michael's Chapel, at Halstock, but there is probably no foundation for this. We have already stated that to this well a story similar to the one related of that on the Blackabrook, near Princetown, attaches (Ex. 6). This was told to me several years ago by the late Miss Luxmore, of Okehampton, who was joint owner of the park, and describes how a man and his wife having lost their way when riding over this part of the moor, presumably led astray by the pixies, recovered it on reaching the well, thus justifying the lady's opinion, previously expressed, that they would only do so on finding water. (*Crosses, Chap. XI.*) It is fortunate that when they reached the pool it was not as it is said to have been in the month of September, 1676, when, in consequence of the dry summer, no water was to be seen there. In this state it is not infrequently found to-day. Its name connects it with the Fitz family, to whom the manor of Meldon once belonged. Like many other wells it probably had miraculous powers ascribed to it, and was formerly visited by the youths and maidens of the neighbourhood on the morning of Easter Day.

A short distance beyond the well, at the top of the ascent, a fine view of the moor suddenly unfolds itself. To the L., in the distance, is Cosdon, and nearer to us the Belstone range. Halstock Down rises beyond the confines of the park, not far off; and to the R. of that, in succession, Row Tor, West Mil Tor, and Yes Tor are seen; and still further R., beyond the camp ground, Black Down. The camp occupies a considerable portion of this part of the park. There are houses and bungalows for the officers, huts for the men, and ranges of shelters for

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the horses. There are also a recreation room, cook houses, and numerous other offices, and when the batteries are here during summer a very animated scene is presented.

A little further on we leave the camp road, which is marked with white stones, and branch L. to Moor Gate, immediately outside which is a ford, and a footbridge over the Moor Brook. Near by, L., is a cottage, and across two fields is seen Pudhanger farmhouse. We do not cross the stream, but turn R. and follow the rough road between

Row  
Tor.

West Mil  
Tor.

Yes Tor.



FROM MOOR BROOK, LOOKING S.

it and the park wall, our path now being the track leading to Dinger Tor, and which has already been described (T. 34). It will lead us between Row Tor and West Mil Tor, and may be seen from the point we have now reached running up the side of the latter. One or two tracks cross our own, and just beyond Anthony Stile, where the wall turns away R., a road runs R. over the shoulder of Black Down (T. 33, S. Ex. 35). But we do not leave the Moor Brook; we keep it on the L., and it will be our companion nearly to its source. Between Row Tor L., and West Mil Tor R., is Creaber's Hole, through which Moor Brook runs, and here we shall notice, as we pass upward, some railings enclosing a small space. It is the place where the water is taken in for use at the camp. When directly between Row Tor and Mil Tor the distant hills come into view, and we see away to the L. the Belstone range with Cosdon to the R. of it. Just here a branch track crosses the brook and runs towards Row Tor. As we climb the hill many other heights disclose themselves. First East Mil Tor (Ex. 16) is seen, very near to us, with Steeperton Tor (Ex. 17) beyond it; then shortly after, between these two, the rocks of Wild Tor appear (Ex. 19); a few steps further on Hound Tor (Ex. 17), with Ock Tor (Ex. 17) below it, become visible to the L. of Steeperton. To the R. of the latter, and far away, is Newtake, partly hidden by Ockment Hill.

At the head of Moor Brook is a small mire and an old stream work, and on the E. side of this are the vestiges of another track. But we leave the stream and the track soon after passing the branch track above mentioned, and strike R., under West Mil Tor, toward the foot of Yes Tor, which is now in full view, and marked by a flag-staff on its summit, our direction being about S.W. On our way we shall pass three piles of rock S. of West Mil Tor, and forming, as it were, outlying masses of it.

Crossing the Redaven (Ex. 14), here only a small stream, we commence the ascent of the tor, taking care to keep well to the R., in order to avoid the great clatter that streams from its south-eastern side.

[Yes Tor may also be conveniently reached from Okehampton Park by way of Redaven Ford, which is, indeed, rather the shorter route of the two. The track branches R. from the one just described (see also T. 33) near Anthony Stile, and running up the hill S.W. reaches a ford on the Redaven (T. 33), the distance from the stile to this point being 1 m. From here the rambler may either make straight for the tor, which is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S., and more than 700 feet above him, or he may follow up the stream to Redaven Dip, which is the way sometimes traversed by peat carts, as a rough track will show. When between West Mil Tor L., and Yes Tor R., he will leave the stream and ascend the hill. The distance from the town to the summit is about 4 m.]

The fine pile of rocks of which Yes Tor consists may be easily ascended ; indeed, on the W. side a path has been made by which it is possible to ride almost to the top of the tor. On the highest rock is the staff already referred to, on which the danger flag is hoisted during the artillery practice. Due W. of the rocks is a large tumulus, and there are indications of another having existed between the tor and High Willes ; flint flakes have been found near the tor. As the view from Willes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S., which on the moorland side is even more extensive than that seen beheld this prominent height, is hereafter described, it is only necessary now to briefly indicate those points that are not to be seen from it. Much of the in-country over which the eye ranges from this tor is hidden from the beholder on Willes. The prospect there is almost entirely a moor one ; from Yes Tor it is one of wild upland on one side and cultivated country on the other. The camp, and the roads that have been cut as approaches to it, spoil the picture presented from this tor when looking towards the north. These are altogether out of keeping with our surroundings ; they take from us that sense of loneliness which the absence of man's work imparts, and in which there is so much charm when wandering on Dartmoor. The farm lands seen in this direction do not do this to any extent, for although the cultivator's hand is there visible, his work is too far away to thrust itself prominently into the picture. Looking down into the valley of the Ockment W. we see Shilstone Tor, and the summit of Black Tor (S. Ex. 36) rising over the edge of the common ; beyond these are Corn Ridge and the Sourton Tors (Ex. 13). We also get a good view of Homerton Hill and Longstone Hill far down below us, though seeming to rise to a great height above us as we passed up through Meldon Gorge (Ex. 14). Beyond this northern verge of the moor we look over a vast expanse of fields and woodland, with here and there a cluster of dwellings. Much of North Devon is visible, and also a great part of North-East Cornwall. Looking into the moor we see where the lonely Cranmere hides itself, though its situation can be discerned better from Willes. In a direction S.S.E. by E. the distant hills will be seen to dip behind a nearer ridge, the second from us, the first stretching away from our feet (see *post*). To the L. of this dip is the pool, which bears S.S.E. from the tor. It might be considered rather strange that such a prominent object as Yes Tor, although on the line of the original boundary of the forest, is not

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mentioned in the Perambulation of 1240, or in subsequent Surveys. But this is to be accounted for by the fact that Willes, which is also on the line, and is, as we have seen, quite near to it, is named as the bondmark here. In a note in Bridges' *Okehampton*, setting forth the ancient bounds on Dartmoor belonging to that parish, the tor is referred to as "Eastor, alias Highest Tor."

Descending from this lofty station we shall make our way to High Willes, which attains an even greater elevation, being indeed, not only the highest point on Dartmoor, but in England south of The Peak in Derbyshire.\* For many years Yes Tor was popularly supposed to occupy this position (though the moormen did not hold this opinion), but the latest Ordnance Survey shows the height of Willes to be 2,039 feet, or 12 feet higher than Yes Tor. They may be said to stand on the same hill, the dip between them being very slight indeed.

Row Tor, West Mil Tor, Yes Tor, and Willes form a range extending from Halstock Down, on the N.E., to the West Ockment on the S.W. The first three are in a line running N.E. and S.W., but Willes is due S. of Yes Tor. On the N.W. side of this range, that is to say, on the side near the cultivated lands, is that part of Okehampton Common comprising Homerton Hill, Longtone Hill, and Black Down, and also Okehampton Park; on its S.E. side towards the forest, are Row Tor Ridge and Dinger Plain. Row Tor Ridge, which is very stony, lies to the S. of the tor so named, and slopes eastward to the Blackaven; Dinger Plain, usually called only Dinger, is a continuation southward of this ridge, but is of much greater extent. Dinger Tor is placed towards its southern end, and the plain is bounded by the Blackaven and the head waters of Brim Brook on the east.

High Willes has been thought to have derived its name from Huel, or Wheal, signifying a mine, but as old workings are invariably found near streams, that is not very probable. The somewhat similar name, at least with regard to its latter part, of Brown Willy, a hill in Cornwall, has been supposed to be a corruption of Bron, or Bryn, Gwili. But *gwili* means *winding*, or *tortuous*, as a path or stream, and has no bearing in the present case. The suggestion has also been made that the root is perhaps to be found in *gwylfa*, a watching place, and it may be that a look-out was once kept upon it for signals. The name appears in 1532 as Hight Wyll, and in later documents as High Willows. There is no tor on Willes, only an outcrop of rock, on the highest part of which is a small tower, said to have been built by the Ordnance surveyors about a century ago. On the turf near by are the ruined walls of a little shelter.

Although the view of the moor from Willes is a very wide one, it is not so extensive as that gained from Cut Hill, and which we have already described (Ex. 11). But we nevertheless look upon a picture instinct with the spirit of Dartmoor. Incongruous features are absent; great stretches of brown heath, with here and there a fantastically heaped pile of dark rocks, alone are seen. We cannot fail to be impressed with the silence and the solitude. To the L. as we face southward, and beyond Yes Tor, is West Mil Tor, behind which Row

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\* The Peak in Derbyshire, 2,088 feet; High Willes (the loftiest hill on Dartmoor), 2,039 feet. The Cumberland hills are much higher: Skiddaw, 3,022 feet; Helvellyn, 3,055 feet; Scaw Fell, 3,229 feet.

## EXCURSION 15. HIGH WILLES.

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Tor hides itself. A little to the R. of these, but further away, is Halstock Down, and still further off Watchet Hill, with the track on its side (T. 37) plainly visible. R. of this is the Belstone range, with East Ockment Farm under it N.E. by E. Beyond the range, in a direction

Cosdon.

Steeperton  
Tor.

Wild  
Tor.

Watern  
Tor.



E.N.E.

E. Mil Tor.

S.E.

FROM HIGH WILLES.

E.N.E., rises Cosdon, the summit of which is exactly 4 m. distant in a straight line. The rounded form of this hill is well seen from this point. Immediately beneath it is the south part of the Belstone range, and in front of that, and near to us, is the tor already spoken of, East Mil Tor. To the R. of the latter, but further off, E. by N., is Ock Tor, and beyond that again White Hill, under Cosdon, and Metheral Hill. R. of this is Little Hound Tor, with Kennon Hill rising behind it. E. by S. is Steeperton, the fine tor at the head of Taw Plain (Ex. 17), with the wall crossing the ridge between the Taw and the East Ockment (Ex. 16), and which is continued to the Blackaven. The combe from which the East Ockment issues will be noticed to the R. of East Mil Tor, which is covered from end to end with granite, and between it and Steeperton. E.S.E., and 3 m. away, is Wild Tor, with Watern Tor peeping over the ridge to the R. of it. In the foreground, and not 200 feet below us, is Dinger Plain, over the whole extent of which we can look. The little sheet of water that we see near the source of the Redaven is Dinger Pool, or as it is sometimes called, the Pixies' Pool. Beyond the plain, southward, Ockment Hill rolls away to the dusky ridge that rises against the sky, its summit being seen to the R. of Watern Tor. R. of Ockment Hill is Newtake, with the higher part of White Horse Hill. To the R. of Newtake is Cranmere, which bears S.E. by S., and is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. off in a direct line. The site of the pool may be discovered in the same manner as from Yes Tor, but is more readily located from this hill. We look in a direction about S.S.E., where a distant hill (which is a part of Cut Hill) is seen to dip behind Black Hill, and to the L. of this dip, but much nearer to us, is the pool. Its exact situation is marked by a dark cleft in the side of the ridge. This is the hollow in which the West Ockment rises, and the pool is at its head. (See *Routes to Cranmere*). R. of the pool is Black Ridge, in a line with Dinger Tor, the latter being only  $\frac{4}{5}$  m. distant. S. of S.S.E. is Great Kneeset, 2 m. off, with Cut Hill the same distance beyond it, and to the R. of the latter Fur Tor,

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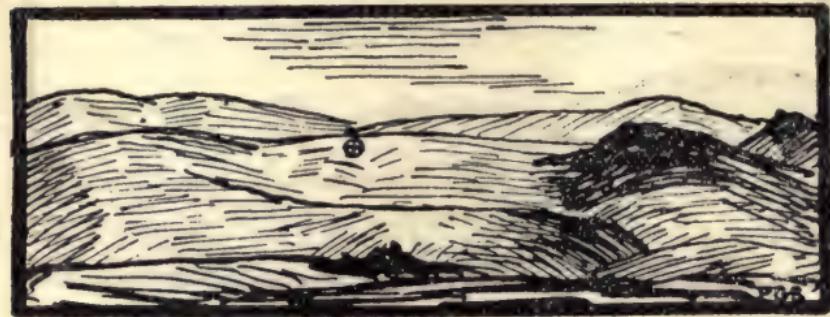
of which we have here a very fine view. Then comes the high ground near the source of the Cowsic and Walkham Head, stretching away in a long range towards the W., behind which Great Mis Tor lifts up his rocky crown in a direction W. of S., and 8 m. away. There is a dip where the western side of huge Standon drops to the unseen Tavy.

Hangingstone  
Hill.

 Cranmere

Cut  
Hill.

Fur  
Tor.



FROM HIGH WILLES.

and then White Tor rises S.S.W. Further R., and looking across the N. end of Amicombe, we see the Dunnagoat Tors, with Great Links Tor rising high above them, the most prominent of all the rock piles in the view. It is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the S.W. In front of Great Links and only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, is Kitty Tor. To the R. is Hunt Tor and Stinka Tor, the latter overlooking the valley of the Ockment. To the R. on the brow of the hill are the Slipper Stones, with Corn Ridge beyond, and still further away in the same direction the Sourton Tors. Beyond these there is a grand stretch of distant in-country, which completes the view.

And now we move onward to a point whence another picture is presented, which, if it does not embrace such a wide extent of country, certainly possesses features which that seen from Willes cannot show. We shall make our way to Forsland Ledge, or, as one document gives it, Fosborne Ledge, though this name is never heard, a small pile of rocks  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Willes, and about 200 feet below it. The beholder looks from it down into the gorge of the Ockment, and upon a picture that has not many equals on the moor. The range of hills from Newtake by Black Ridge, Cut Hill, and Fur Tor to Great Mis Tor, bounds the view to the S. We look into the recesses of the moor around Cranmere, and upon the two Kneesets. Across the valley is Amicombe, and beyond it Great Links Tor, which from no other point presents a finer appearance. Away to the R. are the rocks of Black Tor (S. Ex. 36) at the foot of which is seen the shelter from which the artillery practice is watched, with the in-country over the down beyond. But the features that will arrest the attention are Lints Tor, which came into view shortly after we left Willes, and the winding Ockment far down below. The resemblance of the tor to a castle has been already mentioned (Ex. 14), and the rambler will not fail to be struck with it here. The rocks crown a rounded hill, covered with grass, on which are long lines of heather. Below it on the W. the Ockment flows, the

part of the stream seen being that between Kneeset Foot and Sandy Ford (Ex. 14). In several parts of Dartmoor are tors bearing a resemblance to a building, or to ruins, but nowhere is the illusion so perfect as here. To the R. of the tor Kneeset Foot is seen, with the pass called Broad Amicombe Hole above it (R. 3). Great Kneeset is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. beyond the tor; Little Kneeset is a little to the R. of this, and 1 m. further away. Forsland Ledge is about 550 feet above the river; the hill on which it is placed is very steep, and plentifully strewn with granite. Quite close to it is a small tumulus, within which is what appears to be a ruined kistvaen.

Leaving Forsland Ledge we shall make our way back towards Willes, the summit of which we keep L., and passing over the shoulder of the hill N.E. by E., shall descend to the head of the Redaven, with Dinger Plain R. This little stream runs for some distance through a shallow gully clothed with turf, where we shall find good ground. Our path will lie along the R. bank, and we shall be led through Redaven Dip, between Yes Tor L., and West Mil Tor R., to Redaven Ford, 500 feet below its source. At the ford we shall take the track R. (T. 33, 34), which will lead us direct to Moor Gate,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, from which the road to the town is described in Ex. 14.

Instead of returning by way of Redaven Dip the visitor may pass over West Mil Tor and Row Tor to the road leading to Moor Gate. He will leave the Redaven at the bend under Yes Tor, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from its source, and striking N. by E. will soon reach the first-named group of rocks, which is in full view from the bank of the little stream. The three outlying masses of which we have already spoken will be passed on the way. West Mil Tor is certainly worth a visit; the largest pile, which forms the southern part of the tor, is of a conical form, and rather striking. In the report of the commissioners relative to the boundaries of the Chase of Okehampton, in 1532, when it belonged to Henry, Marquis of Exeter, the tor is mentioned as "Miltor," but in the description of the bounds of the common lands of Okehampton as at one time recognized, and to which reference has been made, it appears as "Middle Tor, alias Miltor." From this it seems probable that the name is a corruption of *middle*, a word which correctly describes the situation of the tor with regard to its two companions, and that it has nothing to do with the Celtic *melyn*, *yellow*, as has been suggested. If this be correct another instance is supplied of a tor bearing a comparatively modern name. Under the rocks is a little shed like that at Black Tor, from which the artillery practice can be safely watched, and its results noted. Dropping down into the hollow on the N.E., and crossing the Moor Brook, the visitor will ascend Row Tor,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. On the stony Row Tor Ridge the wooden figures forming the targets for the artillery will often be seen. The guns, which are placed on Halstock Down, sweep this ridge and Dinger Plain. From Row Tor the visitor will pass down the hill N. to a track (T. 35)  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., which he will follow for a short distance to the road leading N. to Moor Gate, which is less than 1 m. from the tor.

[The road to the town is described in Ex. 14.]

Ex. 16.—*The Blackaven, East Mil Tor, Ockment Hill, The East Ockment, Crovenor Steps, Halstock Down, about 11 m., including summit of Ockment Hill, and return by Crovenor Steps and Moor Gate.*

Our way will first take us to Moor Gate (Ex. 15), where, instead of turning R. as in going to Yes Tor, we shall cross the Moor Brook, and follow the road up the hill southward with the Pudhanger enclosures on our L.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the brook, and soon after passing a large sandpit, we shall strike into a track (T. 35) R., just under Row Tor (Ex. 15). Ere we have gone far we shall notice by the side of it one of the many objects of a similar character to be seen on the moor; it is a granite trough having two compartments, one of which is broken, a flaw having probably discovered itself while it was being cut. Below us on the L. is Row Tor Combe, where there is a crossing-place on the Blackaven, known as Middle Ford. As we proceed we have a fine view of East Mil Tor, which rises boldly in front of us. Away to the L. is seen the Belstone range, with the huge Cosdon behind; also Steeperton Tor, with Ock Tor to the L. of it, the latter, though a small pile, here showing itself to great advantage. Nearer to us the little Hart Tor is seen, on the common at the corner of the enclosure to which it gives name. Just  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the point where our track leaves the road it reaches the Blackaven, which is here crossed by a clapper, known as New Bridge. Though not quite what its name would suggest, the structure nevertheless belongs to a comparatively recent period. At one time I imagined that it might have had some connection with the extensive streamwork close by; that peat was perhaps brought over it for use there. But I now believe it to have been erected at the beginning of the nineteenth century. On the bank of the Blackaven a ruined wall will be seen extending both up and down the stream, and which marks an attempt to enclose a portion of the forest. Several years ago I learnt in the neighbourhood, on good authority, that the bridge was erected at the same time as the wall, and the latter is not ancient, as a farmer, who had lived on the verge of the common all his life, once told me that he remembered men who had helped to build it. It was a part of this wall that we were able to see from Willes (Ex. 15), the area it encloses being very large. From the bridge it runs up to the head of the stream, 1 m., where it turns eastward and is carried over the ridge to the Taw, crossing the East Ockment a short distance below its source. It then runs down the Taw to Taw Plain, and it was doubtless intended to continue it to a point on this river under Belstone Tor (Ex. 17), where a wall runs up the hill and crossing the ridge between that tor and Higher Tor, descends nearly to the East Ockment, its direction between these points being about W. A short distance below where it terminates is Crovenor Steps, where the Blackaven falls into the East Ockment, and here it is seen again, forming for a short distance part of the enclosing wall of East Ockment Farm. It is then continued up the Blackaven to the bridge. The total length of the line here traced is about 7 miles.

The portion of this wall running down the hill from Belstone Tor towards the East Ockment, as also that part of it on the lower Blackaven, is known as the Irishman's Wall. The story goes that some years ago a project was formed by an Irishman to enclose a part of the moor here, and for the purpose of carrying out his plans he brought a number of his countrymen to the locality. They set to work building the wall, creating no little surprise among the Dartmoor folk, and showing their contempt for the rough, damp ground over which they had to walk to their labour by going bare-footed. The men of Belstone and Okehampton said nothing, but let the work proceed. But they had, notwithstanding, no intention of allowing it to be completed. They saw that the taking in of such an immense tract would cut off their commons from the forest. Consequently, when they considered that a fitting time had arrived, they met in force and made such breaches in the wall as to render it useless. The outworks of the Irishman having thus been carried by storm, he evacuated his position, and left the commoners victorious.

Who the Irishman was I am unable to say, but I find in the *Additions to Risdon's Survey*, published in 1811, that among those who are there called "improvers" of Dartmoor, Dr. Brown and Mr. Crawford are named as having not long previously to that time enclosed land on the verge of the forest near Okehampton. This statement can only have reference to the tract of land within the ruined wall, since there are no other enclosures in the forest in that neighbourhood, and thus the time of its erection can be approximately fixed, and if my informant was correct, which there is no reason to doubt, the time of the building of the bridge as well.

Where the wall runs by the Blackaven from Crovenor Steps to New Bridge it is carried nearly on the line of the forest boundary, but not actually so. The latter runs a little to the W. of the bridge, which, however, as it is near the line, is sometimes referred to as a bondmark.\* Above the bridge, and on the W. side of the Blackaven, the line is carried through Curtory Clitters, and across Dinger Plain to Sandy Ford (Ex. 14), being marked here and there by a bondstone.

New Bridge is 18 feet long, and rather more than that in width. There are two openings for the water, each being about four feet wide on the lower side; the buttresses and centre pier are very thick, and irregularly built. It is about 8 feet high on its lower side, and 18 inches less than this on its upper. Looking down the stream the distant in-country is seen, backed by the high land of Exmoor.

The track by which we have reached the bridge is continued along the R. bank of the stream in a southerly direction (T. 35. See also *Crammere Routes*), and climbs the hill S. of East Mil Tor. 1 m. from

\* It is very improbable that the forest boundary line, even if it ever came this way, and there is ample evidence to show that it did not (see *Perambulation* in the *Terms Section*), would have been drawn as at present laid down. The Blackaven would form a convenient boundary, and it is difficult to imagine that it would not have been followed. As it stands this stream is for some distance left just outside the forest bounds; an arrangement not altogether inconvenient for the Okehampton commoners.

## OKEHAMPTON DISTRICT.

the bridge it is crossed by the wall just noticed, outside which it is continued for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. to the summit of Ockment Hill, 1,856 feet, but is there more of the character of a green path.

Leaving the track at the bridge and striking almost due E. we make our way to the northern end of East Mil Tor, which rises close by. Then we turn our steps southward, passing along the ridge, from which there is a fine view of Yes Tor and the neighbouring heights. Rocks extend from end to end of this ridge, which is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. long. On reaching its southern extremity we continue S. to the wall,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, noticing as we proceed a small tumulus near the track which comes up the hill from the bridge on our R.

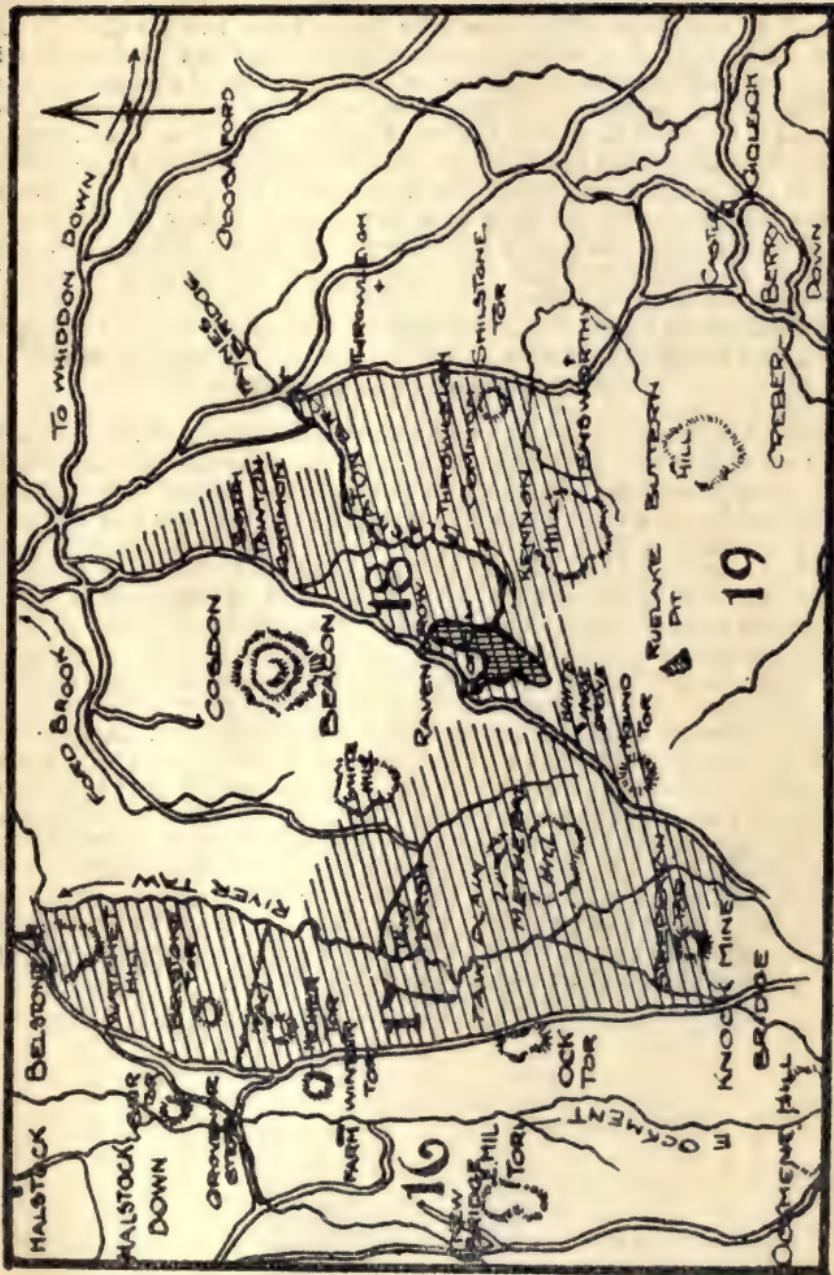
[We may extend our walk from the wall to the summit of Ockment Hill, locally known as Ockaton Hill, where we shall find the remains of a large tumulus. This hill, on which there is much broken ground, comprises that part of the moor lying between the springs of the East Ockment and the head of the West Ockment, and extends westward to Brim Brook. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of the summit a little stream rises and flows down through Vergyland Combe to the West Ockment. This combe is noticed in the C.R. 5, and C.R. 9. Instead of retracing our steps we strike N.E. for nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., avoiding the head of the East Ockment on our L., and then N. to the wall, which we shall reach at a point  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. of where we left it, and on the E. side of the combe in which the Ockment rises.]

At the wall we turn L., i.e., eastward, and follow it for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., crossing on the way a combe through which the Ockment and a couple of small feeders run. Having reached the E. side of this we turn northward, where we shall find good ground, and shall make our way down the valley, with Middle Hill on the further side of the Ockment on our L., to Skit Bottom, where are numerous remains of old mining operations known as Rithy Pits, and these extend to the enclosures of East Ockment Farm, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. down from the wall. The river is often known in this part of its course as the Skit, and seems also to have formerly borne the name of Lede, at least in the town of Okehampton. In a journal kept by John Rattenbury, "gentleman and burgess," in the time of Charles I., the following entry occurs:—"3 August, 1628, being Sabbath day. About four o'clocke in the afternoon, immediately after evening prayer ended att the Church of Okehampton, there being noe raine perceived to fall within or neare this towne, and the streets being then very drye, the water now called Lede, or the East water, was suddenly risen about some V. foote at the Easte bridge, running more violent than had been usually knowne, and twas conceived the water did savour and smell of some brimstone."

[As we approach East Ockment Farm we shall strike a camp road, which comes out over Hart Tor Hill and crosses the Ockment. This road we may follow L. to Okehampton Park, crossing the Blackaven at Stone Ford, sometimes called Hart Tor (or Harter) Ford, on the verge of Halstock Down. In the other direction, i.e., southerly, it runs out towards Taw Head.]

We pass down the valley with the river still on our L., noticing as we proceed the bridge over which the road runs to the farm. A few score yards eastward of this bridge are the remains of a small circle, about 15 feet in diameter, which probably once enclosed a kistvaen, though nothing is to be seen of it now. A few of the stones are still

## 8. OKEHAMPTON & CHAGFORD DISTRICTS.



EXCURSIONS 16, 17, 18, 19, AND COSDON.  
(PARTS OF EX. 19 ARE SHOWN ON MAPS 6 & 9)

**OKEHAMPTON DISTRICT.**

standing. East Ockment Farm is situated within the area that was attempted to be enclosed by the great wall, but was only formed about 1878. As it came in the line of the artillery firing from Halstock Down a lease of it was acquired by the War Office from the Duchy. It is still let as a farm, but under certain restrictions. An under-ground shelter is provided in which those who belong to the place take refuge when firing is in progress. At the lower, or N.E. corner, of the farm enclosures is the ford known as Crovenor Steps, which has been already mentioned, and here we meet the present forest bounds, the line being drawn to this point from Dinger Plain along the Blackaven. A camp road has been made to the ford, and this we now follow up the slope westward, with the higher part of Halstock Down on our R., and the Blackaven, in which we shall notice a number of small cascades, on our L. After a walk of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. we find ourselves near Stone Ford, L., but shall follow the road R., and passing the sand-pit before referred to, shall soon reach Moor Gate. The route from this point is described in Ex. 14.

[From Crovenor Steps the return to Okehampton may be made by way of Halstock; the walk will be found more interesting than that by Moor Gate, and the distance is about the same. On crossing the Ockment instead of following the road, we pass up the hill N.N.W. to Kelly's Corner, a little over  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. distant. Here is a stone having the letter L cut upon it, and forming a bondmark of land belonging to Lydford. The small portion of the common of which this stone marks one of the bounds, though now outside the forest, is nevertheless always regarded as "forest" by those living in the locality, and there can be little doubt that it was once within the confines of the ancient hunting ground. The possession of this piece of common by the Duchy is strong evidence that the forest bounds originally ran as the old Perambulations and Surveys state. Passing onward, with the fields a little to the R., we shall shortly reach a gate in a corner of the common, where a road leads to Halstock. Near to it is Halstock Pound, R., a small square enclosure, used at the drifts principally for ponies. Entering the gate we make our way down the road, with Chapel Lands on our R. At the lower end of this field we strike the path from Belstone to Okehampton, which we have already noticed (see *ante*; also T. 36), and turning L. to Halstock Farm, shall make our way to Okehampton in the manner described in that route.]

## Excursions from Belstone and Sticklepath.

Pleasantly situated on the verge of the common, Sicklepath offers many advantages to the visitor. It is one of the best points from which the fine frontier height of Cosdon can be ascended ; the charming Belstone Cleave may be reached in a few minutes ; and the border settlement that gives name to the latter, and the old-fashioned villages of South Tawton and South Zeal are not far off. *Stickle* is equivalent to the Anglo-Saxon *sticel*, *steep*, a word in constant use in Devonshire, and applied to steep roads or roofs, and to the shallows of rivers, where the dropping of the bed causes the broken water to flow rapidly. Sicklepath stands on the left bank of the Taw, which runs between it and the wooded hillside forming the northern slope of Cosdon. Rising not far from Cranmere this river has a course of about six miles through the moorlands, and thence flowing northward falls into the Bristol Channel in Barnstaple Bay. It was at its mouth that the followers of Alfred slew the twelve hundred Danes, and captured the standard woven by the three sisters of Hingwar and Hubba, as related in Asser's life of the Saxon king. The chapel in the village, re-built in 1875, is said to stand on the site of a chantry built and endowed by Joan Courtenay in 1146.

At the west end of the village is a well bearing the inscription :

Lady Well. Drink and be Thankful.

Near it, on the edge of the common, is an inscribed stone (*Crosses*, Chap. XI.), and here a road runs up the valley to Belstone, a village remarkably well placed for the Dartmoor explorer. Among old time objects to be seen there are a moorland border church, a small manor pound, and the pillars between which formerly swung the castigatory, or ducking-stool. Named Bellestham in Domesday (the *ham*, or lands, of Belles), the place was later known as Belleston, and in the time of Henry II. belonged to Baldwin de Belston. It is one of the ancient vils.

*Ex. 17.—The Belstone Tors, Steepterton, Metheral Hill, Hound Tor, White Moor Stone and Circle, White Hill, Taw Plain, Birchy Lake, about 8 m.*

Passing up the lane near the W. end of Belstone Church we soon reach the common, where, leaving the track (T. 38) running from the moor gate to the forest, we turn aside L., to Watchet Hill, on which, as before mentioned, a danger signal is displayed when artillery practice takes place in this part of the moor. This hill forms the northern end of the ridge between the East Ockment and the Taw, which we were able to see when on our ramble to Yes Tor and Willes (Ex. 15).

## BELSTONE AND STICKLEPATH DISTRICT.

On its summit is a despoiled cairn, about 112 feet in circumference, though a correct measurement cannot well be taken, as it is in such a dilapidated condition. From this point we shall proceed to Belstone Tor, nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant, in a direction almost due S., passing on the way two smaller piles, the three usually being spoken of as the Belstone Tors. On the slope to the R., and near the track, is the small circle called the Nine Stones, or Nine Maidens, noticed in S. Ex. 41; it is passed shortly before the first of the rock piles is reached.

Belstone Tor (1,567 feet) stands a little to the N. of the Irishman's Wall (Ex. 16), which is here carried from the Taw over the ridge nearly to the East Ockment. The whole of the ground is encumbered with lumps of granite, the clatter on the E. side of the hill descending to the Taw and covering both banks. On the S. side of the wall is Higher Tor, and on reaching this we shall bear a little to the R. to Winter Tor, a small pile close to the track which we left at the moor gate (T. 38), and near to the point where it is joined by another coming up from Crovenor Steps (T. 37, Ex. 16). On the further side of the valley W., is East Ockment Farm, of which we have here a good view. We now follow the track, and at the distance of rather over a furlong shall notice a low mound to the L. of the way; in the centre of this is a ruined kistvaen covered with a granite slab. As we proceed along the summit of the ridge the whole of the level valley known as Taw Plain is in sight on the L. At the southern end of this is the fine hill crowned with Steeperton Tor, and peninsulated by the Taw on one side and by Steeperton Brook on the other. The latter stream rises on the northern side of Hangingstone Hill, and at no great distance from the former. The western side of the valley is formed by the ridge along which we are making our way; on its eastern side are Metheral Hill, White Hill, and the lower slope of Cosdon. It extends northward to the clatter below the Belstone Tors, and is about 2 m. in length, and less than 1 m. in width at its widest part. The Taw runs through it, receiving the Steeperton Brook at its head, and Small Brook lower down, between which two tributary streams is Metheral Hill. Passing Ock Tor, near which, on the western slope of the ridge, are some stones placed in such a manner as to suggest a stone row, and noticing some old tin workings at the foot of the great hill we are approaching, we soon reach Steeperton Gorge, through which the Taw forces its way to the open plain below. The further side of this ravine is formed by the great flank of Steeperton, and it is so narrow as to afford little more than room for the river. Quite close to the bank we shall observe the wall spoken of in Ex. 16, and ere we have proceeded far shall meet with this as it comes up the side of the defile at right angles to the Taw.

[The wall runs westward over Middle Hill, crossing the springs of the East Ockment, and reaching the Blackaven. The visitor is here near the point where he turns towards the N. in Ex. 16, to make his way from the wall down the valley of the Skit, or East Ockment. Southward of Middle Hill is Ockment Hill (Ex. 16, and C.R.), which is bounded on the E. by the Taw; it is noticed in the *Cranmere Routes*, as also is the ridge S. of Steeperton, and between the Taw and the Steeperton Brook. This ridge, a part of which is known as Ockside Hill, terminates on the S. at the foot of Hangingstone Hill, in the neighbourhood of Cranmere.]

On leaving the wall our track descends to the Taw, here crossed

by the clapper known as Knock Mine Bridge (T. 38). This is 29 feet long and fifteen feet wide, and there are four openings, the two central ones being wider than the others. The bridge was greatly damaged by a flood in 1890. On the side of the steep slope above it are the walls of a small building, one of the vestiges of the "knocked" Knock Mine.

Crossing the stream we make our way up the side of Steeperton Hill to the tor, distant  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the bridge, and 286 feet above it. The rocks do not rise to a great height, and are therefore not particularly striking in themselves, but the hill should certainly be ascended for the sake of the fine view to be obtained from it. Northward we look out over Taw Plain, with the Belstone range on the L. and the huge Cosdon on the R. E. by N. is Hound Tor, with Kennon Hill beyond it, the former being about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant. S.E. by S. is Wild Tor (i. short; rhymes with filled),  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. off. Southward is the Wild Tor Ridge and Ockside Hill, with Hangingstone Hill beyond. S.W. is Ockment Hill; and W., and ranging round towards the N., Willes, Yes Tor, the two Mil Tors, and Row Tor. The southernmost mass on this hill is sometimes known as the Eagle Rock.

Our next point will be Hound Tor, but instead of making for it direct we shall bear a little to the R. If we shape our course S. of E. we shall strike the track running out from South Zeal (T. 41) shortly after crossing the Steeperton Brook, and turning L. into this shall soon find ourselves abreast of the tor. On the L. as we proceed is Metheral Hill, a tract sloping down to Taw Marsh, and rising in a slightly rounded form between the Steeperton Brook L. and Small Brook R. The first-named stream runs down through Metheral Hole, where are the remains of some tin workings known as White Pits. This name is found attached to several places or objects in the locality, there being White Hill, White Moor, White Moor Mead (see *post* and *Cosdon Section*), and White Works (Ex. 19). The line marking the boundary between the forest and South Tawton Common is now drawn from Small Brook Foot, on which stream there are also some mining remains, up through the middle of Metheral Hill to White Moor Stone, but as already stated it is probable that it formerly ran further to the east.

Hound Tor is a small low pile placed on a narrow ridge between the watersheds of the Taw and the Teign. It forms one of the forest bondmarks, and appears in the Perambulation of 1240 as "parva Hundetorre." The line is now drawn from White Moor Stone, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E., to the tor, and thence to Wild Tor Well, nearly 1 m. to the S. (Ex. 19), and throughout this distance defines the boundary between the Duchy possessions and Throwleigh Common. From Hound Tor the ground slopes southward to the mire above Gallaven Ford, to which point a track comes out from Clannaborough Down (T. 42), passing between Kennon Hill, the summit of which is less than a mile distant E. by N., and Raybarrow Pool (Ex. 18). Beyond the mire, and to the R. of it, rise the rocks of Wild Tor (Ex. 19). E. by S. of Hound Tor, and not far from Gallaven Ford, is a plain piece of ground sometimes known as White Moor Mead. N. of this is White Moor, marked by the tall stone bearing that name, and to which we shall now make our way.

[For a description of other objects in the neighbourhood of this tor see Exs. 18, 19, and R. 24, 25.]

White Moor is a tract extending north-eastward to Raybarrow

Pool, and is bounded on the N. by Brook Hill, which is situated to the S. of White Hill. White Moor Stone stands on a flat, broken piece of ground, W.S.W. of the southern arm of the pool, and about 250 yards from it. Though now serving as a boundary mark it may still be a genuine menhir, while it is also not unlikely that it originally belonged to the stone circle near by. It is a large slab about 5 feet 6 inches high, and less than 6 inches thick ; its width is about 3 feet. The circle is N. by W. of it, and very near to the South Zeal track (T. 41). This now consists of 13 stones, only one of which was erect previous to about 1897, in which year the monument was "restored." It is evident that there were formerly more stones than at present, and as we can hardly suppose that they would be carried far, it is not at all improbable that they were taken away to serve as bondstones, of which there are several in the locality. The stones are between three and four feet in height.

On leaving the White Moor Circle we shall cross the track and strike N.N.W. to a group of ruined huts  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, passing over Brook Hill, on which is a low cairn. Close to the huts we shall notice a short reave, and not far from this, in a northerly direction, is a dilapidated kist, and what appears to be a menhir lying prone on the ground. Below this group the hill, which sinks down to Small Brook is covered with rocks, between which whortleberry plants grow in great profusion. One cluster of these granite masses near the stream is called the Flock o' Sheep. Passing down the slope in a north-westerly direction, with the stream on the L., we shortly come upon other remains. These consist of hut circles enclosed within three pounds of an irregular circular shape, the walls, or rather banks, of which are very low, and in a dilapidated condition. One of these pounds is quite near to Small Brook, which here flows through a hollow. From the smallest of them a short reave is carried towards the stream, and close to it is another running from the stream northward. This terminates very near to the Ivy Tor Water, which is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant, and is mentioned in our notice of the track leading from Ford over the shoulder of Cosdon (T. 40).

In descending the side of the hill from the first group of huts we have a good view of Taw Plain, and of the distant range of hills capped by Willes, rising beyond the Belstone ridge. From this part of the moor these hills present such a different appearance from that worn by them when seen from other points as to render them at first not readily recognizable. The sides of Taw Plain very nearly approach each other at its lower, or northern end, where the Taw seems to have scooped out a channel for itself. In the days when this channel was at a higher level than at present it is probable that the plain formed the bed of a shallow lake, into which the foot of Steeperton projected. This idea will certainly be suggested to the visitor who looks upon it from the point we have now reached, or when he views it from near Birchy Lake. It is about 1,160 feet above sea-level.

Below the hut circles Small Brook runs through Taw Marsh to the Taw, the confluence being known as Small Brook Foot. The tributary may be followed to the larger stream, there being good hard ground upon its banks ; or we may strike into the green track that we shall see running towards the N. from a ford over the brook (T. 40). If we choose the former we shall pass between the two patches of miry

ground of which Taw Marsh consists, and on reaching the Taw shall cross it at the first place where an opportunity offers, or follow the river down to Ducky Pool, just below which it makes an abrupt bend where there are two fords. Here it is narrow as well as shallow, and can generally be crossed without difficulty. If we follow the track it will lead us for a short distance over a smooth, level piece of ground, with White Hill on the R. Then we leave it and strike towards the river, our mark being Higher Tor, on the ridge beyond. This will bring us to the fords at the bend.

[Should the Taw be in flood it will, of course, be necessary for the visitor to return by way of Knock Mine Bridge.]

On crossing the river we strike a rough track (T. 39), which we shall follow past the Irishman's Wall, and through a wilderness of stones, to Birchy Lake. It was among these masses of granite that the cottage of the old woman with the evil eye formerly stood, and where Luke Duggins shot the black cat, Pluto. The visitor will look in vain for traces of it now, for it was destroyed by the spell of a good pixy at the very moment the old woman was about to fly away on a broomstick. Birchy Lake consists of a farmhouse, and one or two other dwellings. A good road leads to Belstone,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. distant, a fine view of the Cleave being obtained on the way.

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### Cosdon.

The huge hill of Cosdon spreads itself over the greater part of South Tawton common. Its local name is Cosson, for which there is a certain degree of authority, as we find that both names were in use in 1609, but none whatever for Cawsand, which form appears on the Ordnance Map published in 1888. Cosson is, of course, merely the Devonshire way of pronouncing the true name, the earliest mention of which is in the Perambulation of 1240, where it is given as Cossdonne. Until the nineteenth century was well advanced this hill was thought to be the highest on Dartmoor, but there are several of much greater elevation; its height is 1,799 feet, or 240 feet less than that of Willes. On the N. the hill is bounded by Belstone Cleave, Skaigh Wood, and the plantation above Ford; on the E. by the enclosures running S. from that plantation nearly to the head of Cheriton Combe; on the S. by Raybarrow Pool and White Hill; and on the W. by the northern part of Taw Plain.

The summit of this hill is crowned with a cairn 90 yards in circumference, known as Cosdon, or Cosson, Beacon; indeed, this name is often applied by the natives to the whole hill. About 150 yards N.E. of this cairn are the remains of what appears to have been two kistvaens encircled by a ring of slabs over 50 feet in diameter. A short distance to the N.E. are the scant vestiges of a cairn, and to the N.W. of this the remains of another, each of them being about 60 feet in diameter. Around the latter are some slabs leaning outwards, in the manner often noticed where the stone circle surrounds a tumulus. Before these remains were despoiled they must have formed a striking group. But the wall builder on Dartmoor is, or was, generally a vandal; a cairn would mean nothing more to him than a heap of material, and a kistvaen, if its sides were long, a couple of gate-posts.

## BELSTONE AND STICKLEPATH DISTRICT.

The antiquities on the summit of Cosdon are not by any means the only ones on that hill that have suffered at the hands of the spoliator. We remember when there were many hut circles on its eastern side, between the peat road (T. 41) and the enclosures opposite West Week, but only the vestiges of a few are to be found there now, and it is not so many years since that the monument formerly known in the locality as Eight Rocks disappeared. This consisted of eight upright stones, forming part of what had once been a fine circle or row. From a description given to me many years ago at Whiddon Down I judge it to have been the latter. The stones stood at the northern end of the hill, on the slope above Ford. Children in the neighbourhood used to be told that when the Eight Rocks heard South Tawton bells they would be seen to dance.

[Another stone row, which is situated on a little plateau on the eastern side of the hill, and not very far from the enclosures, is known as the Cemetery, and this we have mentioned in our description of the track from South Zeal and Prospect Place to the forest (T. 41). It consists of three parallel rows of stones, running from two kist-vaens, and was "restored" in 1897. The kists are surrounded by a circle of low stones about 17 feet in diameter, and are placed side by side. One of them is fairly intact, but of the other only one side stone and one end stone remain, the latter serving also as an end stone to the more complete kist. Running almost due E. from this little circle is the triple row, which is about 8 feet in width at its widest part, and here some of the stones composing it are from 3 to 4 feet in height. For a distance of about 85 paces the row is well defined; it then becomes rather fainter, and extends for another 70 paces to the track referred to. About 120 paces N. of this monument, which presents a rather striking appearance, is a reave running like the row E. and W. It is very much overgrown in places, but it can be seen that some large stones were used in forming it. This group of antiquities is situated N. of the upper end of Cheriton Combe, looking down which the tower of Throwleigh Church can be seen S.E. by E.]

On the western slope of this great hill, due W. of the beacon cairn, and rather over a furlong from it, is a group of hut circles, some being of rather large size and others small. A part of this group stands within a pound about 350 paces in circumference, the wall of which is irregularly built of loose stones, and is not more than about 3 feet in height. The whole is much overgrown with heather. Below this, towards the W., is a dilapidated cairn, and the vestiges of a reave, and running southward from the head of the Ivy Tor Water is the reave mentioned in Ex. 17.

In our notice of the bounds of Dartmoor forest we have stated that Cosdon was the starting-point of the perambulators who were appointed in 1240 to view them, but from what part of the hill they set out cannot now be stated with any certainty. If the forest line then ran across Taw Plain, as it is now supposed to do, Cosdon would be altogether outside it, and there would have been no reason for mentioning it, unless it was that the point from which the perambulators set out was the foot of the hill, supposing what we now call White Hill to have been looked upon as one with Cosdon itself. But the return made under the commission (only copies of which, however, exist), shows the Perambulation to have begun at Hoga de Cosdonne, or

Cosdon Hill, and as when other hills are named in the return it is clear that the summit of them is meant, it is only reasonable to suppose that such was intended in the case of the one in question, besides which the name would also lead us to that conclusion, *hoga* meaning height.\* But whether the bounds viewed in 1240 included much or little of Cosdon within the royal forest, it appears certain that the crown had possessed rights over that part of the moor, and probably contended for them then, a claim which we believe has not been abandoned by the Duchy. South Tawton was ancient demesne, and King John, when Earl of Moretaine, held the manor of Richard I. It afterwards came into the possession of Roger de Toeny, who apparently paid twenty shillings a year for the common, which is probably what is referred to in certain manorial records as Tawland.

The view from Cosdon is of great extent and variety. On one hand the solitary moor, with its hills rising bleak and bare; on the other a vast panorama of wood and field happily intermingled. All the prominent heights to which our rambles from Okehampton and Belstone have taken us are in sight. Away to the S.E. by S. is the ridge of Hameldon, and to the L. of it, and further off, the twin masses of Hey Tor (Ex. 25). Between the openings in the hills, in a direction almost due S., a distant eminence rises against the sky. On this, but too far removed from us to be visible, is the cairn known as Western Whitaburrow, which marks the extreme southern point of the forest, the line being there drawn between it and Brent Moor (Ex. 30). Its distance from the summit of Cosdon is 16 m., as measured on the map. Nearly the whole of North Devon is revealed, and very much of the eastern part of the county. Northward is the stretch of cultivated country that extends to the foot of the Exmoor hills, which are seen bounding the view in that direction. Hardly a season passes but some of the red deer from that district make their way across this to Dartmoor, a journey of about 30 miles. When the weather is favourable the Bristol Channel off Barnstaple Bay is clearly discernible, and towards the S.E. the English Channel beyond the mouth of the Teign.

Few directions for ascending Cosdon Hill are necessary, the ground being everywhere easily passable, but it may perhaps be well to briefly indicate the best routes.

(A). From Belstone the first point will be Birch Lake (Ex. 17), a short distance above which, where the enclosures on the L. terminate, the Taw will be crossed by the natural stepping-stones in its channel, a task which, unless the stream be in flood, will present no difficulty. The summit of the hill is now about 1 m. distant in a direction S.E. by E. About midway up the track to Small Brook is crossed (T. 40), and also the Ivy Tor Water, near which the ground is sometimes rather marshy, but not sufficiently so to prove an obstacle. Between this little brook and the beacon cairn on the summit the hut circles referred to as being on the western slope of the hill will be passed. (If, on reaching the R. bank of the Taw, the rambler follows it up for

\* The name appears in many parts of the country; as in Morthoe and Trentishoe, in the North of Devon; in Hawley's Hoe, the residence of a former merchant of Dartmouth; in Plymouth Hoe; in Humbershoe and Tatternhoe, in Bedfordshire; and in Wivenhoe, in Essex. Alster Hohe also occurs near Hamburg.

a short distance instead of immediately ascending the hill, he will come upon the ruins of a small building, consisting of walls forming three sides of a square, and of the kind seen in connection with the tinniers' workings. But many years ago we found a story current in the locality to the effect that this house was one of those in which the Irish people who settled in this part of the moor some years ago used to live, and it was then referred to as the Irishmen's House. Presumably these were employed in building the wall which has been described in Ex. 16, and according to the account we gathered they were driven away by the natives. From this ruin the course to the summit of the hill will be a trifle more eastward than the former one).

(B). From Sticklepath the hill may be reached by the path running up through the wood. Another way is by the track from Ford to Small Brook (T. 40). Soon after gaining the common the branch of this path ascending the hill L. will be reached, and into this the visitor must turn. It does not go quite to the summit of Cosdon, but very near to it. Another way is by leaving this track where it enters on the common, and striking a little W. of S. to a small clatter known as Rabbits' Holt. Here is a stone about 6 feet in height, one of a line erected in 1885, to mark the boundary of certain mineral rights, and also that between what was anciently known as the manor of Zeal Toeny and the land over which the Duchy claims jurisdiction. There have been frequent disputes between the commoners of South Tawton parish and the Duchy. It is claimed by the former that they have a right to enclose, and, as will be seen, they have fenced in a good part of the side of the hill opposite Ramsleigh and West Week. The late Bailiff of Dartmoor, the representative of the Duchy authorities, sought to prevent this, and once attempted to throw down some walls the commoners had erected. But the latter were not disposed to allow their rights to be interfered with, and mustering in force repelled the invaders. On one face of the stone in question are the letters S Z, with the figure 2 beneath them, and on the other the letters D C, and a similar figure. These stand for South Zeal and Duchy of Cornwall respectively, the figure being merely the number of the stone. Another of the stones may be seen near the corner of Skaigh, to the N.W.; and a third hard by the enclosures to the S.E. South Tawton Church is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the clatter in a north-easterly direction. The summit of Cosdon is rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant.

(C). From South Zeal the lane leading to the road at Prospect Place, near Ramsleigh Mine, may be followed. The Place is a row of cottages erected in 1845, as a tablet in the wall shows. Here the road is crossed, and the visitor will then pass up the narrow way to the common, as described in our notice of the track to the Steeperton Brook (T. 41). When the common is reached he will leave the track and climb the hill R.; on the way he will see the boundary stone at Rabbits' Holt which we have just noticed.

(D). From Clannaborough Down the route will be as in Ex. 18. On reaching the Cemetery the steep side of Cosdon, which rises abruptly from the plateau on which that monument is situated, must be scaled. The course will be nearly due W., and the distance from the rows to the beacon cairn on the summit about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.

(E). From Enswoorthy the course will be about N.W. Cross Forder Brook, and then make up over Shilstone Hill to the Blackaton

Brook, which will be struck where the Gallaven track (T. 42) runs beside it. Keep Cheriton Combe on the R., and in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. the peat road (T. 41) will be reached. The summit of the hill is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond this.

(F). From White Moor Circle the peat road (T. 41) must be followed northward to the edge of Raybarrow Pool (Ex. 18), when the visitor will strike over the common L., his course being due N. Cosdon Beacon is less than 300 feet above this point, and about  $\frac{2}{3}$  m. from it.

(G). From the ford at Small Brook the summit bears a little E. of N.E., and is some 550 feet above it. The way lies over White Hill, the distance being about 1 m. The ground is good, and the visitor will find no difficulty in reaching the beacon.

Ex. 18.—*Steeperton Track, Raybarrow Pool, White Moor Circle, Blackaton Brook, Cheriton Combe, about 9 m. (EXTENSION to Kennon Hill, White Moor Marsh, Shilstone Tor, and Clannaborough Down, about 1½ m. further).*

We leave Sticklepath by the eastern road, and after crossing the bridge over the Taw, of which there is mention in the Lydford Court Rolls of the time of Elizabeth, shall bear R. to Prospect Place. Here we turn R. into the Steeperton track, or Peat Road (T. 41), which we shall not desert until we reach the confines of the forest, 3 m. distant. On passing the Cemetery (*Cosdon Section*) we look down upon Cheriton Combe L., where is some miry ground, in which a little feeder of the Blackaton Brook takes its rise. Skirting the head of this our track, which as before observed is one of the best of similar paths on the moor, gradually ascends to Raybarrow Pool,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. further on, along the western edge of which it is carried. The so-called pool is really an extensive mire, one of the worst in the moorland region, and lies between the foot of the southern slope of Cosdon and that part of Throwleigh Common known as Kennon Hill. It is considerably over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. in length from N. to S., but not quite  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. in breadth, except in one place. It is very probable that this swampy flat once merited its name, and that it has been artificially drained by deepening the channel of the Blackaton Brook, which flows from it on the east. No stream runs into the mire, but it receives the drainage of a large area of moorland, and in very rainy seasons a little water gathers in one part of it. Its elevation is about 1,500 feet. It was into Raybarrow Pool that Sampson Bow, the moorman, drove the band of sheep-stealers who once made an old building called Cosdon House their haunt. Soon after passing the mire we come in sight of White Moor Circle on the L.

(The route to Belstone from this circle is described in Ex. 17).

Our way lies past the circle to White Moor Stone, which is about 200 yards S.E. by E. of it (Ex. 17), and thence to a bondstone  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. nearly due E. This stands close beside the track leading from Clannaborough Down to Gallaven (T. 42). Here we turn northward, and follow the path along the eastern edge of Raybarrow Mire to the point where Blackaton Brook issues from it, Kennon Hill being on our R. By crossing the little stream just below its head, and following the

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path to another crossing-place, we shall avoid some miry ground, but on regaining the R. bank the former will become our sole companion. It will lead us past the point where the Cheriton Combe Water falls into it, and through Blackaton Hole, a romantic hollow, at the lower end of which is a small fording-place with a footpath climbing the steep L. bank. A little way down stream is the reach known as Shilley Pool, below which water is taken from the brook for use at Ramsleigh Mine.

(This mine is worked for copper. Among others in the district we are noticing may be mentioned Ivy Tor Mine, or Belstone Consols, Copper Hill Mine, and Halstock Mine).

[*Extension from White Moor Stone over Kennon Hill.* This will not greatly add to the length of our excursion. The first point will be the bondmark by the side of the Gallaven Track (T. 42), noticed above, whence we soon reach the summit of Kennon Hill (1,573 feet),  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. E.S.E. of the monolith. From this hill we have a good view of the commons that slope down to the North Teign, and of some of the principal points in the north-east part of the forest. Beyond the Teign, S.S.E., is seen Shovel Down (Ex. 20), with the enclosures and trees of Batworthy to the L. of it, and further away the commons rising towards that part of the moor over which runs the road between Moorgate (Ex. 21) and the Warren House Inn (Ex. 45). Two miles away to the S.S.W. is Watern Tor (Ex. 19), and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. Wild Tor (Ex. 19), backed by the high land that stretches away to the region of Cranmere. W.S.W. is Steeperton (Ex. 17), and due W., and 4 m. distant, High Willes (Ex. 15). Kennon Hill has a smooth grassy surface, with some scattered stones about its higher part. On its western side a few remains of an older day are met with, among them being the scanty vestiges of huts of the kind usually regarded as shepherds', or herdsmen's, shelters. On this side also are some mining gerts, one of which is named Proctor Gully, and another London Pit. The hill is bounded on the S. by Ruelake Pit and Rival Tor (Ex. 19); on the W. by White Moor and Raybarrow Pool; on the N. by Blackaton Brook and Shilstone Hill; and on the E. by White Moor Bottom, in which is situated White Moor Marsh, the source of the Forder Brook. From the summit of Kennon the head of this marsh is  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, and if we follow a S.E. by E. course we shall reach it where a small hollow is formed in the steep side of the shallow valley. This grassy dell was formerly a haunt of the elves of the moor, and is still called the Pixies' Parlour.

Crossing the head of White Moor Marsh we find ourselves at the foot of Buttern Hill, which forms the eastern side of the little valley, and which is noticed in our excursions from Chagford (Ex. 19), together with Creber Pound and other objects of interest in this locality. Extending northward from this hill to Blackaton Brook are Enswoorthy Hill, forming, like Buttern, a part of the common lands of Gidleigh, Shilstone Hill, and Clannaborough Down, the latter two belonging to Throwleigh Common. We pass down the hollow, with the marsh close on our L., and near its lower end shall observe the ruins of a mining hut of the usual rectangular form, and consisting of a central chamber with a smaller one on each side. On the slope are also the remains of a circle, which was apparently over 80 feet in diameter

when in a complete state. Only six of the stones are now standing, but the monument seems to have originally consisted of more than thirty.

Skirting Ensworthy Hill we shall cross the little Forder Brook where it bends R., and entering once more upon Throwleigh Common, shall direct our steps to Shilstone Tor, on the further side of a tiny feeder that comes down north-westward through Shilstone Combe. Shilstone Tor stands close to the road leading from Payne's Bridge to Creber Pound and Berry Down. The pile, never a very large one, has unfortunately been rendered almost insignificant by the quarryman. There are two excavations in it from which stone has been taken, and many of the blocks composing it also show the marks of the bars used in splitting them. But this destruction by the roadmender is not all; it has been sought to rob the tor of its name also. It is rather amusing to read that a late antiquary "identified" this pile with the Hound Tor (Ex. 17) of the perambulators, and to note that his fanciful idea has been accepted by another writer in sketching the bounds of the forest. There is not the slightest proof that this tor ever bore any other name than that by which it is now known, or that the perambulators ever came within two miles of it. But the "identification" was necessary in order to support a view that the forest was much larger in 1240 than it is at present. It was desired to show that the perambulators drew their line from Cosdon to this point, but as they have distinctly recorded that they drew it to Hound Tor, this could only be done by giving the name of the latter to Shilstone Tor. The process is a beautifully simple one, and if carried out on a generous scale it would be easy to show that every tor on Dartmoor was once within the forest. It has also been applied in another place, as we shall see later on, where a new name has been given to a stream in order to bring it in as a boundary (Ex. 21).

Near Shilstone Tor is the entrance to the farm of the same name, noticed in S. Ex. 46.

It is not only the destruction of natural objects that has taken place on this common. The remains of erections of an old-time people have also suffered at the hands of roadmen and wall builders, among others one which appears to have been an enclosure very similar to that existing near Sharp Tor above East Combe on the Dart (Ex. 41), although the wall was not quite of the same character. The moormen, it is said, used to refer to it as a pound, which name, indeed, they give to all ancient enclosures of larger size than the hut circles, and by which they mean a place where cattle could be driven for shelter and protection. No trace of this now exists, but vestiges of other remains are numerous on every part of Shilston Hill and Clannaborough Down. These we shall meet with as we make our way across the commons in a north-westerly direction from the tor. They consist chiefly of a number of reaves and hut circles, some of the latter being of large size, but they are so much overgrown with short furze and heather, as to be undiscernible until the rambler comes close upon them. In one place two of the reaves run parallel for a considerable distance, the space between them being about the width of an ordinary roadway. Still further N.W. there are others, while hut circles are also numerous on the down due N. of the tor.

When we have proceeded about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. we shall cross the Gallaven

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Track (T. 42), as it runs up over Clannaborough Down, and a short distance beyond this is Blackaton Brook. We pass onward to the little crossing-place over the stream above Shilley Pool.]

On crossing Blackaton Brook we once more find ourselves on South Tawton Common, with Cheriton Combe on the L. Our course will now be about N.N.W. from the fording-place. Not very far from the brook, and when a little S. of W. of East Week (the group of thatched cottages seen across the shallow valley), we shall notice two stones, their position seeming to indicate that they once formed part of a large circle, though this is not free from doubt. On the slope of the hill R., are a number of small modern farm enclosures, near which are the remains of a few hut circles. There were formerly many more of these, but they have been destroyed by the builders of the walls. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Blackaton Brook we shall strike the Steeperton Track (T. 41), near the Cemetery, which we shall follow northward, and where it forks turn down the hill R. to Prospect Place, thence returning to Sticklepath by the road by which we set out.

[An alternative route from Shilstone Tor, or from Shilley Pool, is by way of Payne's Bridge. In the former case the road near the tor is followed northward to the bridge, which is 1 m. distant; in the latter Blackaton Brook is traced downward for rather less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. The distance from the bridge to Prospect Place is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. See S. Ex. 44 and 45.]

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### Shorter Excursions.

(FROM OKEHAMPTON).

S. Ex. 34.—*Sourton Down and Prewley Moor*, 9 m. Leaving the town by way of the West Bridge the visitor will follow the Tavistock road (passing the branch L. at  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m. which leads to Meldon) to a point on what was formerly a part of Sourton Down. Here on the R., and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the town, where the Hatherleigh road diverges, is a guide-stone, and a little further on, but on the L., a fine granite cross over 8 feet in height. [Crosses, Chap. XI.] It will be noticed that the arms are very short, and this, and the fact that it bears a Romano-British inscription, will probably justify us in supposing that it was fashioned out of a menhir. The latter, which is cut lengthwise on the shaft, is apparently to the memory of Princip. The cross has also been made to serve a similar purpose to that of the guide-stone, letters indicating the direction of Hatherleigh, Okehampton, Tavistock, and Launceston, being cut upon it. Proceeding southward along the road, past the spot where Jockey Down's House formerly stood, the rambler soon reaches Prewley Moor (T. 32, Ex. 13), and  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the cross will pass under the railway, and make his way up the common. He will not, however, follow the track running out to Kitty Tor (T. 32), but will keep rather near to the enclosures on the L. Soon after Prewley farmhouse is passed, which is situated on the verge of the common on that side, a track will be struck near where it leaves

the moor. This is the King Way (T. 26), which comes down to this point from Iron Gates (Ex. 13). Turning into this ancient path the rambler will follow it down the hill northward past Higher Bowden to Meldon, which is reached just after passing under the railway. (The road running R. leads to Meldon Down, Ex. 14).  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. beyond the hamlet the rambler will reach the road by which he left Okehampton, at a point  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the town.

S. Ex. 35.—*Meldon Gorge.* A,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m.; B, 8 m.; C, *including the Island of Rocks*, 10 m. By the Tavistock road as in the preceding excursion for  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m.; then bear up the hill L. to Meldon. (A) Down the path, eastward, to Burrow Cleave (Ex. 14); thence by the track under the viaduct (T. 33), and through Meldon Quarry, to Higher Bowden Steps,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., the Ockment being L. and Meldon Down R. Cross the river at the steps, and turn L., following the track (T. 33) under the viaduct to Okehampton Park. Thence to the town by the path, the route being the reverse of that described at the beginning of Ex. 14. (B) From the stepping-stones down to where the Redaven falls into the Ockment. Cross this tributary, and ascend the road R., with the enclosures on the L. Keep these on that side, and follow the road eastward across Black Down. In rather over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. Anthony Stile will be reached, near which is a small building. This is the filter-house connected with the Okehampton water supply, which is taken from the Redaven. Follow the track between the wall L., and Moor Brook R., to Moor Gate. (C) From Meldon up the road towards the railway; take the *first* turning L. under the bridge; thence by the lane to Meldon Down,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. From the moor gate a track descends to Higher Bowden Steps (T. 33), but the rambler will keep this on his L., and not descend far below the brow of the hill. By so doing he will strike an old disused water-course, which now serves as a path, and this he will follow along the side of South Down for about 1 m., to the point where the little Vellake comes down on the R. The scenery is described in Ex. 14. A short distance above this is the Island of Rocks, whence the rambler may make his way to Shilstone Tor, on the slope of the hill to the S. From this group of rocks he will return to the Vellake, reaching it, however, a few hundred yards above the confluence. Passing up the hill, with the enclosures close to him on the R., he will soon reach the King Way where it comes down from Iron Gates, as described in S. Ex. 34. From this point he will follow the directions given in that excursion.

The West Ockment from Sandy Ford downward (Ex. 14) forms the boundary between the commons of Okehampton and those in Sourton parish. At Vellake Corner the boundary line leaves the Ockment and runs up the little stream, and is continued on to Iron Gates (Ex. 13), where, forming an acute angle, it turns back to the point where the King Way enters on the enclosed lands. A wedge-shaped tract is thus cut out of the Sourton common lands, and to account for this erratic course of the boundary line the story often attached to spots where a similar curious arrangement occurs is related. This is to the effect that the dead body of a strange man was found on the common belonging to Sourton, but the people of that parish refusing to give it burial it was interred by the men of Okehampton, and as a consequence that part of the moor was afterwards claimed

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by them.\* A similar story is related in other parts of Dartmoor. The Glazes are said to have been lost to Brent in this manner (Ex. 31), and the parish of Shaugh thrusts its boundaries into the forest on a like pretence (Ex. 34).

S. Ex. 36.—*Black Tor*, 9 m. To Meldon Gorge through the Park as in Ex. 14. On crossing the Redaven we shall leave the Ockment and ascend Longstone Hill L., by following the upward track (T. 33). When it bends sharply L. we leave it, and striking a little E. of S. shall soon reach the Fishcombe Water, often called the Homerton Brook. This stream we shall then follow to its source, a charming spot named Fishcombe Head, where a few dwarf oaks grow among scattered rocks, and at a considerable height above the gorge. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant, in a direction S. by E., is Black Tor, consisting of three fine piles, from which there is a grand view of the deep valley of the West Ockment. This tor is seen from Cranmere Pool. Against one of the piles a small shelter is reared, for use during the artillery firing. Forsland Ledge is seen on the brow of the hill  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.E. On leaving the tor the visitor will strike N.E., and crossing the common under the northern side of Willes and Yes Tor, will reach the ford on the Redaven in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. From that point he will follow the track to Moor Gate as described in Ex. 15. Redaven Ford is 1 m. E.N.E. of Fishcombe Head.

S. Ex. 37.—*The Blackaven and Dinger Tor*, 10 m. To New Bridge as in Ex. 16 (T. 35). We do not cross the stream, but continue our way up the L. bank to Curtory Clitters, and on to Blackaven Head. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond this, in a S.S.W. direction, is the source of Brim Brook. On reaching this we follow the little stream downward for a short distance, when we shall come upon a miners' hut on the L. bank. It is of the usual type, and is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 11 feet on the inside, the walls being between 3 feet and 4 feet in height. Below it, and on the same side of the stream, is another; this is rather smaller, being only 16 feet by 7 feet, but is a better example. These buildings are  $3\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Moor Gate by the route we have followed. On leaving them we strike northward, ascending the hill to Dinger Tor, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. E. of this we strike the track noticed in Ex. 15 (T. 34), and shall follow it back to Moor Gate.

S. Ex. 38.—*West Mil Tor and Row Tor*,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. To Redaven Dip as in Ex. 15. Then strike L. to West Mil Tor, and passing over this, cross the head of Creaber's Hole to Row Tor. From thence N.E. to the track running to New Bridge, which follow N. to Moor Gate.

S. Ex. 39.—*Crovenor Steps*,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. To Moor Gate as in Ex. 15. Then follow the camp road, with the enclosures of Pudhanger L., to Halstock Down. The road bears L. to Crovenor Steps, on the East Ockment. From this point the return may be made by way of Halstock as described in Ex. 16.

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\* I have referred to this in my account of the Okehampton Commons in the new edition of Bridges' book already mentioned. I learnt from the late Mr. J. D. Prickman that it used to be said that the body was discovered by a dog. He took the trouble to search the registers of Okehampton and Sourton, but found that the only recorded burial of an unknown person related to a woman, and that there was no entry confirmatory of the story.

The Chapel of Halstock may be visited on the return route. The direct route to it from Okehampton is given in our notice of the path between that place and Belstone.

S. Ex. 40.—*Ancient Camp near Ashbury Tor, 3½ m.* To the brow of the hill near Fitz's Well. We then enter the gate on the L. as in going to Halstock (T. 36), but instead of following the road thither we strike across East Hill, our course being a little N. of E. On the R. is Halstock Cleave, through which Moor Brook runs to join the Ockment. Passing over Heather Knoll we reach the mounds known as The Camp, which the Rev. H. G. Fothergill, who made an examination of them in 1840, thought to consist of British, Danish, and Roman remains. He considered that he found the first two periods represented by some ramparts overlooking Moor Brook, and the latter by the rectangular enclosures adjoining these on the N. Close by is Ashbury Tor, beautifully draped with climbing plants, and half hidden amid heather. The spot is altogether very charming, and the visitor should by no means omit to include it in his rambles. A fine view of Belstone West Cleave is obtained from the rocks. We may return to the hill near the station by striking over the down N.W.

(FROM BELSTONE).

S. Ex. 41.—*The West Cleave and Nine Maidens, 3½ m.* We leave by the road running N.W. from Belstone Church, and at the distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. shall reach the entrance to the old Belstone Rectory, L. A short distance inside the gate, and built into the wall on the R., is a stone with some curious markings, which I have elsewhere noticed. [Crosses, Chap. XI.] It is about four feet high, and among the devices incised upon it is a circle enclosing a cross. Passing onward from the gate we take the first turning L., which will lead us to the common. On the brow of the hill is Cleave Tor, or Cleave Rocks, as the mass is more often called, which it will be readily seen is not of granite formation. A fine view is obtained from it of Halstock Cleave on the further side of the Ockment, and of Ashbury Tor (S. Ex. 40). Our next point will be Chapel Ford, to which the track running near the rock goes direct (T. 36), but this will not now be the route we shall follow. The valley, or West Cleave as it is called [Gems, Chap. V.], is worth seeing, and we shall therefore descend its steep side to the Ockment, reaching the stream a short distance below the point where Moor Brook flows out of Halstock Cleave to join it. There is a fine cascade on the river here. We pass up stream, presently reaching Chapel Ford, whence the path already described (T. 36) runs up through Halstock Woods. But we still follow the Ockment, and when we have gone a little further up the valley shall come in sight of Skir Tor. Soon after passing the higher end of the woods we reach the pile; it is not far from the track leading from Belstone to Crovenor Steps (T. 37, Ex. 16), and opposite to a farm on the W. side of the river known as East Bowden. Striking E. from the tor into the track we follow it upwards, turning aside R. shortly before reaching Watchet Hill, to the circle called the Nine Stones, and sometimes the Nine Maidens. But as a matter of fact there are 17 of these, and thus the circle is sometimes known as the Seventeen Brothers. The circle, which is not of great size, probably surrounded a kistvaen, though no vestiges of such are now visible;

the stones composing it are rather small. More than one story attaches to it. It is said that these lumps of granite were once creatures of flesh and blood—a band of merry maidens, who met here to dance upon a Sunday. For this wicked act they were turned into stone, and are compelled to dance every day at noon. That they do so may plainly be seen *when the conditions are favourable*. *Maiden* is, of course, a corruption of *maen*. On reaching the moor gate we descend the lane to Belstone.

S. Ex. 42.—*The Belstone Ridge and Taw Plain*, 6 m. Up the lane to Watchet Hill, as in Ex. 17. Thence southward along the ridge to Ock Tor,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the village. Descend L. to the Taw, which will be struck at its confluence with the Steeperton Brook. Pass up the R. bank of the latter stream for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m., then turn N.E. over Metheral Hill to the source of Small Brook, which follow downward to the Taw. Down the bank of that river to the fords (Ex. 17), and thence to Belstone by the track through Birch Lake.

(Steeperton and Knock Mine Bridge are noticed in Ex. 17).

For White Moor Circle, Wild Tor, and Watern Tor, see Ex. 17, 19.

The routes to the summit of Cosdon are given in the section dealing with that hill.

For direct route from Belstone to Throwleigh see S. Ex. 47.

#### (FROM STICKLEPATH).

S. Ex. 43.—*South Tawton, Oxenham, and South Zeal*,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. We take the eastern road from the village as in Ex. 18, but on crossing the bridge instead of turning R., or keeping straight on to South Zeal, shall strike into a narrow lane L. This will bring us to South Tawton,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant, a charming example of a Dartmoor border village, with its playstow and ancient tree. (About 3 m. distant, on the road to North Tawton, is the fine old mansion of North Week, or Wyke).

Taking the road to the mill E., the visitor will pass this and ascend the hill to Oxenham Cross, of which monument, however, only a small fragment now remains. This stands in the hedge L. [Crosses, Chap. XII.] Just beyond this on the R. is the entrance to Oxenham, an eighteenth century farmhouse built on, or near, the site of the ancient mansion of that name. With the family of Oxenham was connected the tradition of the White Bird, the notice of which in Howell's *Familiar Letters* has been so often quoted. The White Bird was said to appear as a forewarning of the death of the head of the family, and sometimes of that of other of its members. There are many accounts of the appearance of this mysterious visitor between 1618 and 1873. "How Mr. Oxenham saw the White Bird" will be well remembered by all readers of *Westward Ho!* A poem has also been written on the subject.

(If the rambler desires he may extend his walk along the lane for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond the entrance to Oxenham to Ringhole Copse, at the eastern end of which is a very fine wayside cross).

Turning from Oxenham Cross the visitor will strike into the lane opposite to it, and running S., which will bring him in about 1 m. to the village of South Zeal. The way now lies through the single long street of which the place mainly consists, one part of which ascends the hill north-westward. Formerly this was the coach road, but in a

later time a new road was cut, and the descent into South Zeal and the climb out of it avoided. The latter is the one running by Prospect Place (*Cosdon Section*) to Ramsleigh Mine, where it turns abruptly to the east, and joins the Exeter road again about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. E. of the village, and not far from a little common called Firestone Ley. Most of the houses in South Zeal are covered with thatch, and have a pleasing old-world air. Part way up the hill on the L. is the Chapel of St. Mary and St. Thomas, and near it an ancient cross set in a socket-stone on a calvary consisting of three steps. A small panel will be observed on this base, in which are some faint markings. This inscription was the work of a native of the place called John Stanbury. [*Crosses*, Chap. XII.] In 1298 Robert de Toeny, then the holder of the manor, granted to the inhabitants of South Zeal the right to hold a market and two fairs annually.

Passing up the steep street the visitor will reach Zeal Head Cross, or, as it is sometimes called, Townsend Cross,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. above the chapel. This is now only a cross road, but formerly a monument of the kind indicated by the name stood here, but is said to have been destroyed by a man named John Orchard, who lived at Ford Farm. Still following the road the visitor will in less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. reach the bridge at Sticklepath.

S. Ex. 44.—*Dishcombe and West Week*,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. As in the last excursion the visitor will cross the Taw and bear L. to South Tawton village. Thence he will follow the road leading to South Zeal as far as Moon's, or Mohun's, Cross, the remains of which stand on an open space in front of an old barn. Here the road forks, the point being a very important one. Travellers from the north would here branch off according as they were journeying along the northern or the eastern edge of the moor. Our way will lie to the L., and following the road south-eastward we shall leave the village of Zeal on our R., and  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the cross shall pass Dishcombe, and ascend the hill to the Exeter road a little to the E. of its junction with the new one running on to Ramsleigh Mine. We cross this and enter a narrow lane, shortly reaching a gate on the R. Passing through this we find ourselves in a rough bridle-path, forming one of the means of approach to West Week. This ancient house, one of the most interesting in this part of the Dartmoor borderland, was formerly the seat of the Wyke, or Weekes, family, and also of the Battishills. There is a fine old embattled gateway, on which is carved the coat of the last-named and the date 1656. Opposite to this are the remains of an old cross placed under a tree. Readers of *John Herring* will remember that it was to West Week that the father of Mirelle was taken after the carriage accident. In full view from the house is the slope down which rolled old Cobbledick's barrel.

The way will now take the visitor past the house and by some fine old trees to a narrow lane leading down to the main road at Moorview. On reaching this he will turn R., and passing Ramsleigh Mine and Prospect Place will return to Sticklepath.

S. Ex. 45.—*Cheriton Combe and Payne's Bridge*,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. To Ford as in the ascent of Cosdon, but on turning L. when leaving the little stream keep straight on, between the enclosures, instead of again turning R. up to the common. Keep a southerly course (there

## BELSTONE AND STICKLEPATH DISTRICT.

are a few turnings here), and soon the peat road coming up from Prospect Place (T. 41) will be entered upon. Follow this to the Cemetery (*Cosdon Section*), and leaving it there, strike south-eastward over the common, keeping Cheriton Combe on the R. (*Cosdon Section*, Ex. 18). On reaching Blackaton Brook cross it and follow the R. bank down to Payne's Bridge, passing Shilley Pool (Ex. 18) on the way. From this part of the common the hamlet of East Week, mentioned in Ex. 18, is in full view. The road running through it goes on to Gooseford, or Goosaford as it is called in the locality, and thence to the Exeter road near the little village of Whiddon Down. L. of East Week is the farm of Middle Week, and below it, and nearer to the visitor, is Clannaborough Wood. At the head of this the Blackaton Brook makes a bend ; its course changing from about N.E. to S.E.

The visitor will cross Payne's Bridge, a small structure of one arch, and follow the road northward to Moorview at the entrance to West Week, whence he will return to Sticklepath by the road as in S. Ex. 44.

S. Ex. 46.—*Throwleigh, 7½ m.* Crossing the Taw the visitor will bear R. as in S. Ex. 45, and follow the road past Prospect Place, Dry Arch, and Ramsleigh Mine to Moor View. About 100 yards beyond this the road forks, the L. branch going on through East Week and Goosaford (see S. Ex. 45), and the R. to Throwleigh and Gidleigh. The visitor will choose the latter, and speedily reach Payne's Bridge the route up to this point being the reverse of the latter part of the last excursion. Just beyond the bridge, and not far from a dwelling-house which is seen on the side of the hill R., the road to Throwleigh branches off L., the other running on past Shilstone to Creber Pound and Berry Down. (See *Road Distances*). Striking into this L. branch the visitor will soon reach Clannaborough Farm on the verge of the common, where he will enter upon the enclosed lands. A little further on a footpath runs across some fields R. direct to Throwleigh village ; the lane will lead the visitor through a part of Clannaborough Copse. Throwleigh Church is on the R. as the village is entered. It possesses several features worthy of notice ; there is a very fine priest's doorway, and the carving of the ribs and bosses of the roof is good. There is also a granite tomb in the north wall of the chancel, but as it bears no inscription much of its interest is unfortunately lost. The lich gate is ancient, as also is the church house near it. A few score yards eastward is an open space usually known as Throwleigh Barton Cross, in the centre of which is a granite cross standing on a low calvary of the same, formed by three steps. It was erected, as the inscription upon it shows, in 1897. Only the base, or socket-stone, is ancient. [*Crosses*, Chap. XIII.] From the gate of the churchyard a lane runs southward up the hill to Shilstone Farm (Ex. 18), on the verge of the common. This the visitor will follow, taking care not to turn L. at the southern corner of the graveyard into Deave Lane. Shilstone is rather less than  $\frac{2}{3}$  m. from the village. The farmhouse, like most of the older border dwellings, is surrounded by some fine trees, and is a good specimen of the habitations of the yeomen of two or three centuries since.

From the farm the rambler will pass on to the common, where he will find himself close to Shilstone Tor, from which point he may return to Sticklepath by either of the routes described in Ex. 18 and S. Ex. 45. If the latter, *via* Payne's Bridge, the distance will be about  $\frac{1}{3}$  m. less.

## (THROWLEIGH TO BELSTONE).

S. Ex. 47.—*Via White Moor Stone*, 6.m. The first point will be Shilstone Farm. The rambler will strike W. by S. up over Shilstone Hill, leaving White Moor Marsh L., to Kennon Hill (Ex. 18). This he will cross to the bondstone on the Gallaven track (T. 42), and thence proceed westward to White Moor Stone. Directions for reaching Belstone from this object are given in Ex. 17, but Brook Hill and White Hill may be left a little to the R. in descending to the fords on the Taw. The straight course to these from White Moor Circle is N.W. by N.

*Via North end of Raybarrow Pool*, 5 m. This, the more direct route, passes exactly 1 m. N. of White Moor Stone. From Shilstone Farm the course is W.N.W. by W. Blackaton Brook is crossed at, or near, the lower ford of the Gallaven track (T. 42), and the Peat Road (T. 41) a little to the northward of Raybarrow Pool. The next point is White Hill, whence the rambler descends to the fords on the Taw (Ex. 17), leaving Taw Marsh on his L. There is no difficulty in striking a bee-line, the ground being good throughout the whole distance. Conversely the points from Belstone will be the fords above Birchy Lake; thence E.S.E. to the summit of White Hill; thence, following the same course, to the northern end of Raybarrow Pool; and then bearing a trifle more E. to the Blackaton Brook and Shilstone Farm.

Steeperton Tor.

Mendip Hill.

Belstone Ridge.



The Taw.

FROM TAW PLAIN, LOOKING S.

## Routes from Okehampton, Belstone and Sticklepath.

(Return not included in the distances given).

R. 24.—To Chagford and Moreton, S.E. by E. (A) *Crovenor Steps, Fords on the Taw, North end of Raybarrow Pool, Shilstone Tor*, thence by road. C, 11 m.; M, 15½ m. Reverse, R. 38 A. (B) *Crovenor Steps, Small Brook Foot, White Moor Stone, Berry Down*, thence by road. Distance about the same. Reverse, R. 38 B.

[Objects : Ex. 16, 17, 18, 19.]

From Belstone the route will lie (A) through Birch Lake to the fords on the Taw, 1½ m. (B) to Small Brook Foot, ¼ m. further up the stream. In the latter case it will be well not to cross the Taw until arriving at Small Brook, and so avoid the marsh on the R. bank. The distance is about 2 m. less than from Okehampton.

From Sticklepath the road is followed to Payne's Bridge as in S. Ex. 46, thence keeping R. at the fork just beyond it to Shilstone Tor. C, 7½ m.; M, 12½ m.

(A) Setting out from Okehampton the rambler will first make his way to the brow of the hill near Fitz's Well, as in Ex. 15, and thence by the gate L. to Halstock, as described in the route to Belstone, T. 36. On reaching the entrance to Chapel Lands the road running to the moor gate near Halstock Pound is followed, from which point a short track runs S. past Halstock Corner to Kelly's Corner, where is a stone marking the boundary of land belonging to the parish of Lydford, and lying outside the forest limits as now recognized. The next point is Crovenor Steps,\* ¼ m. S.S.E., and the road is then followed up the hill to Winter Tor, with Higher Tor L. (Ex. 17). From Winter Tor the rambler will descend to the fords on the Taw, rather over ½ m. E. From this point the directions for reaching Shilstone Tor as given in S. Ex. 47 must be followed. Here the road will be struck, and the

\* On the East Ockment. The following lines are from Miss Sophie Dixon's poem on this river (1830):—

Starting in hoary gush his waters roll  
Their battling strength, and with the crags contend ;  
Till gentler scenes his turbulence control,  
And the green branches o'er his bosom bend.

A voice of waves comes swelling up the glen,  
Where torn mid rocky chinks the cataracts play ;  
Now heard like heaven's own thunderings, and then  
On the gale's softest murmur soothed away.

rambler will turn S., reaching Forder Bridge in  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Forder Brook is a small tributary of Blackaton Brook, falling into it at Blackaton Bridge, not far from the hamlet of Providence Place. Soon after crossing the brook Great and Little Ensworthy Farms are passed L.; Buttern House is seen on the moor R. A little further on the road enters the enclosures at Moortown, and here it forks. The R. branch must be followed for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the entrance to Thule. Turn into this to the farm L., whence a footpath across some fields runs S.E. towards Gidleigh. This will bring the rambler to a steep hill down which he will pass for a few yards, and then turn R. The old manor pound will be seen L., and just beyond it is Gidleigh village, from which the road will be followed down to Highbury Bridge, where Blackaton Brook is crossed. It then ascends to Murchington,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Gidleigh, and runs down Walland Hill to Chagford Bridge. This part of the road is noticed in our account of Chagford District.

(B) To Crovenor Steps and Winter Tor as in the preceding route. Thence down the hill S.E. to Small Brook Foot (Ex. 17), and up Metheral Hill, with Small Brook L. and Steeperton Brook R., the course being the same until abreast of the source of the former, when the rambler will bend a little L., and on reaching the top of Hound Tor Ridge will pass the White Moor Circle L., and make his way to White Moor Stone (Ex. 17). The course will now be S.E. by E. across the shoulder of Kennon Hill, the head of White Moor Bottom, and Buttern Down, to the stroll above Berry Down (Ex. 19), a distance of 2 m. (Buttern Down is noticed in Ex. 18, 19). At the bottom of Berry Down Stroll, which is referred to in the *Chagford District*, the rambler will turn into the lane R., and passing Berry Down Farm, will descend the hill, with Gidleigh village L., to Highbury Bridge, whence he will proceed to Chagford as in the former route.

The road from Chagford to Moreton is described in the account of that district.

R. 25.—To Bovey Tracey, S.E. by E. The best route is through Chagford, following the instructions given in R. 24, 31, 22 m. Reverse, R. 46, 38. But should the rambler prefer to go by way of the moor instead of partly through lanes, the directions for doing so are here furnished.

*White Moor Stone, Teign Clapper, South Teign, Bovey River, Hookney Down, Heathercombe, Heytree Cross, Swine Down Gate, Leighon, Trendlebere Down, Lower Down Cross.* Distance about the same. Reverse, R. 45.

Visitors from Belstone and Sticklepath will join these routes as in R. 24, except that if the moor route be chosen those from Sticklepath will leave the road at Ensworthy, and strike S. across the side of Buttern Hill towards the Creber enclosures, passing between them L., and a newtake, disconnected with others, on the hillside R. Still keeping S. Teign Clapper will be reached from this point in about 1 m.

[Objects : Ex. 17 to 24.]

For the first few miles the route will be the same as R. 24 B, but on reaching the side of Kennon Hill after leaving White Moor Stone (Ex. 17), the rambler will bear S.E., a course that will bring him in about 2 m. to the great stone circle on Scorhill Down (Ex. 19). Near this is Teign Clapper, where he will cross the North Teign immediately

## Route 26. Okehampton and Belstone to Ashburton.

below where it receives the Walla Brook. The course is then up the hill S.S.E. to Shovel Down, with the Batworthy enclosures L., and across the site of the stone remains described in Ex. 20. Beyond Batworthy Corner, still following the same course with Kes Tor L., the rambler will make his way to the Long Stone,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the circle at Scorhill. Thence the way lies down the hill to the South Teign. If this cannot be crossed here it must be followed up for a short distance to Fernworthy Bridge (Ex. 20), when the rambler will make his way back by the road to the wall of the Metheral enclosures, and at the corner of these, where it turns abruptly to the L. near a rivulet, will leave it and strike up over the common, his course being due S. He must avoid keeping to the L. of this line, as should he do so he will strike Metheral Bogs (S. Ex. 58). When abreast of the head of this mire the course must be changed to E.S.E., and followed for over 3 m. to Heathercombe. First the valley of the Bovey River, or as it is usually called in this part of its course, the Hurston Water, is crossed; then the Princetown and Moreton road; then (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. further on) the Challacombe road; and then Hookney Down. This should bring the rambler to King's Barrow, a small tumulus near to which is a kistvaen (Ex. 22). Rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond this, the course being still E.S.E., is Heathercombe (S. Ex. 62), where he will enter upon a lane. This is followed past Heytree to Heytree Cross, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., at which point he will turn R. into the Ashburton road. This will lead him along the edge of Cripdon Down and Swine Down to Swine Down Gate, locally Swallerton Gate,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the cross road (Ex. 24). Passing through this he will turn L. and follow a narrow lane leading down into the valley of the Becky Brook. Hound Tor is seen boldly placed on the hill R. Soon after entering upon the enclosed land, a narrow road branches L. to Great Hound Tor Farm, but the rambler will bear R. to the stream. There he will cross Leighon Bridge, and make his way up the hill past the house of that name to the common, and follow the road for rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to another that comes L. from Manaton. This he will cross, and striking a little S. of E. over the down, will descend the hill to a corner of Yarner Wood, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant, where he will find himself on the Lower Terrace Drive. Turning R. into this he will be led over Trendlebere Down to the east side of the wood. Keep R. to the guide-post near one of the entrances to Yarner. (The house was once known as Chad Wycke). Here the road runs along the foot of Lower Down for nearly 1 m. to Lower Down Cross. At this point the rambler will turn down the hill L., and in about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. will reach Bovey Station.

R. 26.—To Ashburton, S.E. by S. White Moor Stone, Teign Clapper, South Teign, Warren House Inn, Grendon Bridge, Bittleford Down, Cockingford, Buckland-in-the-Moor,  $22\frac{1}{2}$  m. Reverse, R. 52.

Belstone and Sticklepath visitors will join this route as described in R. 25.

[Objects : Ex. 17 to 22, 44 and 26.]

For the first 10 miles this route is identical with R. 25 (the moor route), but when the rambler is abreast of the head of Metheral Bogs, his course, instead of being changed to E.S.E., will lie over Hurston Ridge and the E. slope of Watern Hill, a little E. of S. This will bring him in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the Warren House Inn, on the Princetown and Moreton road. Immediately in front of this hostelry a footpath runs

to Golden Dagger Mine, first crossing a leat and then the Walla Brook. The rambler will follow it until he has passed over the latter (less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m) and will then turn due S. This course will take him over Soussons Common to the Post Bridge and Widecombe road at the point known as Ephraim's Pinch (Ex. 44),  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. About midway he will pass a group of tumuli. On reaching the road he must turn L., or eastward, and descending Ephraim's Pinch, follow it to Grendon Bridge on the West Webburn. The way then lies by Hill Head to Lower Blackaton, as in R. 5, C. Here the Broadford Brook is crossed, and the road R. is followed southward over Bittleford Down. (Pass three turnings R. See R. 33). Near the S.E. corner of this it joins the road from Ponsworthy to Widecombe. Here the rambler turns L. for a few hundred yards, and then down the hill R. to Cockingford (R. 5 A).  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond this is a turning R. into which the rambler will strike, and will be led in 1 m. to the church of Buckland-in-the-Moor. From this point Ashburton is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, the road, which is noticed in the account of that district, running in a south-easterly direction.

R. 27.—To Brent and Ivybridge, S.S.E. to S. by E. *New Bridge, Ockment Hill, Cranmere, East Dart Valley, Broad Down, Hollow Combe, Muddy Lakes, Prince Hall Bridge, Fox Tor, Black Lane, Red Lake Ford, Western Whitaburrow, Shipley, Brent.* (To Ivybridge from Black Lane : *Erme Head, Green Bottom, Valley of the Erme, Harford Bridge*). To Brent, 26 m. ; to Ivybridge, 27 m. Reverse, R. 63. To Cornwood see R. 28.

Visitors from Belstone and Sticklepath will join this route at Cranmere (C.R. 10).

[Objects are noticed in Ex. 15 and 16; in C.R. 9 and 17; and Ex. 45, 46, 3, 4, 30, and 33.]

The first part of this route is described in Ex. 16 and C.R. 9, which together give directions for reaching Cranmere Pool, and in C.R. 17, which will show the way from the pool down the upper valley of the East Dart. But on reaching Sandy Hole (Ex. 45) the directions given in C.R. 17 must no longer be followed. The rambler must there leave the river and strike due S. across Broad Down for 1 m., when he will reach Hollow Combe, through which the Cherry Brook runs. He will cross this just where the great reave (Ex. 46) is seen running up the precipitous side of the hill R. to Lower White Tor, and still following a course due S., with the Powder Mills Cottages L., will in 2 m. reach the Princetown and Moreton road. This must be crossed, and a course still due S. be kept over Muddy Lakes to Prince Hall Lodge, about 1 m. distant. The rambler will then follow the road to Prince Hall Bridge, as described in Ex. 4. Passing a few hundred yards up the lane he will take the first turning R. and make his way by Moorlands to Tor Royal Newtake close by (Ex. 4). Here he will again turn due S., his point being Fox Tor, and in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. will reach the Swincombe River. He should strike this near the point where the Wheal Emma Leat is taken in from the stream, close to which is a ford (Ex. 3). From this crossing-place he may either make his way direct to Fox Tor, which he will see above him (with Childe's Tomb on the plain ground at its foot), or keep L. and follow up the stream towards the ruined Fox Tor farmhouse, and then ascend the hill with the tor R.

Black Lane commences to the S. of the tor, and this will now form his path. (See T. 75, Ex. 3, and R. 7). On reaching the head of the great stream-work the rambler will find himself near Ducks' Pool, and on the route from Princetown to Brent, which latter is about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. in a south-easterly direction (R. 7), and to this he is referred. If his destination be Ivybridge,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  m. S., he will follow Dark Lake downward to the stream-work at Erme Head, from which point directions for reaching that place are given in R. 7.

R. 28.—To Cornwood, Flympton, and Shaugh. The first a little E. of S.; the others a little W. of S. *Dinger Plain, Broad Amicombe Hole, Tavy Hole, Walkham Head, Rundle Stone, Princetown, Nosworthy Bridge, Sheep's Tor, Cadaford Bridge.* To Cornwood, 27 m.; Plympton, 27 m.; Shaugh, 24 m. Reverse, R. 70. This route is identical with R. 29 and R. 8, q.v.

R. 29.—To Princetown, with branch to Two Bridges, and routes from Belstone and Sticklepath, S. *Dinger Plain, Broad Amicombe Hole, Tavy Hole, Walkham Head, Rundle Stone, Princetown, 15\frac{1}{2} m. To Two Bridges via Walkham Head: Conies Down, Lich Path, Cowsic Valley, 14 m. From Belstone to Princetown, via Black-aven and Brim Brook, or via Taw Head and Little Kneeset, 14\frac{1}{2} m. Belstone to Two Bridges: Taw Head, East Dart Head, Broad Marsh, Broad Down, West Dart Valley, 12\frac{1}{2} m.; from Taw Head via Cut Hill, 13 m. Reverses, R. 3.*

[Objects: Exs. 15, 10, 6, 5, 11; and C.R. 2, 10, 17.]

The first point will be Moor Gate, whence the track to Dinger Plain (T. 34) will be followed as in Ex. 15, but will not be left until the rambler reaches Dinger Tor. The next point is Broad Amicombe Hole, the dip which will be seen to the R. of Great Kneeset (R. 3), but it will not be wise to make direct for it, as it may not be possible to cross the West Ockment so low down. We shall therefore strike S., and in  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. shall reach Kneeset Nose, following the Brim Brook to the river, and near this shall have no difficulty in finding a crossing-place. On reaching the L. bank of the Ockment we make our way downward in a S.S.W. direction, to the bend  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. We then leave the stream and climb the hill to Broad Amicombe Hole,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., our course being altered to S.W. We now follow the infant Amicombe, which here runs due S., downward for 1 m., to where it receives the Cut Combe Water (Ex. 11, Extension), which is the second tributary flowing into it on the L. Here we cross the stream, and still pursuing a southerly course, shall pass over the shoulder of Fur Tor to Tavy Hole,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., which the rambler should reach just where the Fur Tor Brook runs into the Tavy. (Care must be taken not to keep too far up the side of Fur Tor on leaving the Amicombe, or the rambler will find himself amid a clatter, where progress will be slow; nor must he keep too near the river, or he will get into boggy ground). If nothing is seen of the tiny Fur Tor Brook the rambler will be nearer than he ought to be to the Amicombe; if he is higher than his line to the confluence should bring him, he will strike it shortly before reaching the Tavy. This, indeed, is as it should be, for the exact point he has to reach is  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. above the confluence; if he strikes the latter, therefore, he will follow up the Tavy for that distance. Looking back he should

now see Fur Tor N.E. by N. The next point is Walkham Head (Ex. 10), but a straight course up the hill must not be followed, or the rambler will get into a bad piece of fen. (See R. 3). His line should be S.W. for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. and then he must turn due S., when he will pass over some old turf ties, and reach the stream in a little over  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. This he will cross just above its first bend, and will shortly find himself on the old peat track that runs into Peter Tavy (T. 16). This passes down the shallow valley about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the L. bank of the stream, and must be followed for  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. to the head of the Prison Leat, which will now become the rambler's guide. (See Ex. 5 and 6). It will lead him between Black Dunghill (L) and Great Mis Tor (R) to Rundle Stone (or the Prison enclosures near it), whence the road runs direct to Princetown.

*To Two Bridges from Walkham Head.* When rather less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. down the peat track (T. 16) the rambler must leave it and strike S.E., and in  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. he will reach a ford on Spriddle Lake, where he will cross that little tributary. Soon after this, the course being the same, he will cross another rivulet in Nipper's Hole, a shallow hollow which branches from Spriddle Combe and runs up under Maiden Hill. From this point he will bear a trifle S. of S.E. and pass over Conies Down to the Lich Path (T. 18), rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. Crossing this old track he will make his way for another mile to the Cowsic, which he will strike below Broad Hole, 1 m. Two Bridges is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, the way thither being described in Ex. 5.

*Belstone to Princetown.* (A) *Via Broad Amicombe Hole.* This is the reverse of the branch described in R. 3. To the moor gate at Watchet Hill, and thence by the road S.W. to Crovenor Steps. Cross the East Ockment and follow the Blackaven to its source. Strike S.S.W. to Brim Brook Head, and trace that stream to the Ockment at Kneeset Nose. Here that river must be crossed and followed downward for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the sharp bend as described above. (Another way is by Taw Head and Cranmere, C.R. 10, C.R. 1).

(B) *Via Two Bridges.* Taw Head as in C. R. 10. Then strike due S. over the fen, the plateau on the edge of which Cranmere Pool is situated being R. and Newtake (Ex. 19, Extension) on the L., to East Dart Head, the distance being under  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Thence as in C. R. 2.

[Should the visitor desire to take in Cut Hill on his journey, he will leave Dart Head L. and strike S.W. by S. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. up the side of Black Hill, and then turn S. by W. The summit of Cut Hill is now about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, the way lying over Flatters, where the ground is seamed with narrow crevices. An easier way is to follow the Dart for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from its source, when the summit of the hill will bear about W.S.W., and then to make for a point a little to the R. of it, crossing the Cut Hill stream, here a tiny rivulet trickling through the peat, on the way; on reaching the top of the ridge bear L. and make straight for the summit. For a notice of the hill see Ex. 11, Extension, where also routes to Princetown and Two Bridges are given.]

R. 30.—To Lydford and Tavistock, S.W. by S.

(A) *By ROAD.* (See road distances). To the fork  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m. from the town; take R. branch and pass under the railway bridge to the stone cross on the L. of the way (S. Ex. 34); Prewley Moor, Sourton, Lake, Southerly, Fox and Hounds. (Turn R. for Bridestowe Station),

## Route 30. Okehampton to Tavistock.

Vale Down, Dartmoor Inn. (Turn R. for Lydford). Skit Bridge, Black Down, Lane Head, Wringworthy Hill, Tavistock. 16 m. Reverse, R. 16 and 9 A.

[Objects : Ex. 15 to 9.]

(B) To TAVISTOCK BY WAY OF THE MOOR. *Dinger Plain, Broad Amicombe Hole, Tavy Hole, Walkham Head, Sandy Ford, Peter Tavy, 18 m. Reverse, R. 9 B.*

[Objects : Ex. 15, 14, 10, 8.]

The route to Walkham Head is described in R. 29. When the rambler reaches the peat track (T. 16) on the east side of the Walkham, he will follow it down to the first ford, immediately below Timber Bridge (Ex. 10). Here the stream is crossed, and the track followed up the rising ground above the western bank, and through the cut between Stooky Moor and Green Hill on the R., and Cocks' Hill on the L. It soon afterwards bends L. (Ex. 8, Extension), and the rambler following it will have the enclosures above Wapsworthy (Ex. 8, Extension) on his R. He will then pass on by the Long Stone and Stephens' Grave, as described in Ex. 8, to Twyste Lane, on making his way through which his green track will lead him to the Godsworthy road. Instructions are given in the excursion named for reaching Peter Tavy from this point, and the road over Harford Bridge (see Road Distances) is followed to Tavistock.

The rambler from Belstone will strike this route at Kneeset Nose. His first point will be Crovenor Steps (T. 37), and he will then follow the Blackaven to its source. Thence S. by W. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the head of Brim Brook, which he will trace down to its confluence with the West Ockment at the Nose.

Belstone Tor.



FROM CROVENOR STEPS, LOOKING E.

## ROUTES TO CRANMERE.

C. R. 8.—*From OKEHAMPTON (A) via West Ockment Valley,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. Fishcombe Head and Black Tor as in S. Ex. 36. Keep the tor R. Then strike S.E. by S. above Black Tor Copse, drawing near Sandy Ford on the Ockment, 1 m. from the tor, but not descending to it. Thence over Lints Tor, keeping the rocks R., to Kneeset Nose, where Brim Brook falls into the river. Cranmere is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. by S. of this, but that course must not be followed, as it would lead the rambler through boggy ground. Strike due E. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., taking care not to bear too much L., when the Ockment will again be met. The little lateral valley L. at this point, in which there are streaming remains, is Vergyland Combe. This runs up northward, and must be crossed near its foot, and the Ockment followed to its source. One little feeder falls into it above the combe. Here the Ockment is the L. branch. As already stated Cranmere is close to the head of the stream.*

(B) *via Dinger, 7 m. Moor Gate; Creaber's Hole; as in Ex. 15. Thence by the L. track over Dinger Plain southward (T. 34). Leave Dinger Tor R. ( $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.E. by S. of High Willes), and descend to Brim Brook, which will be struck near its source. Thence the way is S.E. across the side of Ockment Hill to the head of Vergyland Combe, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. (see A). On leaving Brim Brook keep a little L., the lower ground R. being bad around its source. If the S.E. line is followed there will be no difficulty in reaching the combe. On crossing the latter bear a little R., and the Ockment will soon be struck (see end of A).*

C. R. 9.—*From OKEHAMPTON via New Bridge,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. Summit of Ockment Hill, as in Ex. 16 and T. 35. From this point, which is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S. of the old wall (Ex. 16) the head of Vergyland Combe is  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. (C. R. 8, a, b). Cranmere is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. due S. There is some broken ground between, and it is not advisable to pursue a direct course. The rambler should bear a little R. in order to strike the Ockment about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. below the pool (see end of C. R. 8a).*

*Another way from the summit of Ockment Hill is to bear S.E. to the Taw, but it is further. C.R. 10.*

The return route to Okehampton by way of New Bridge forms the latter part of R. 63. The rambler will follow the Ockment downward for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., and then strike N. to the New Bridge track, 1 m. (T. 35). This he will follow to the bridge, and thence to the town as in Ex. 14, 15. If he desires to go by way of Dinger he will strike N.W. by N. when  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. down the Ockment, and so onward across Vergyland Combe to Brim Brook, taking Willes for his guide. When the weather is clear the track he is making for near Dinger Tor can be seen from the pool. On reaching this (T. 34) he will turn into it R. and follow it to Moor Gate and the town.

Cut Hill.

Black Ridge.

X  
Cranmere.

FROM SOUTHERN SLOPE OF OCKMENT HILL, ABOUT  $\frac{1}{4}$  M. S.E. OF SUMMIT.

C. R. 10.—*From BELSTONE via the Taw,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m.* The way lies by Watchet Hill to Oke Tor,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m., and thence to Knock Mine, 1 m., as in Ex. 17. From that point the river is followed to its source, from which Cranmere is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant W. by S. The ground between the head of the stream and the pool is rather spongy, but will present no difficulties. Care must be taken not to keep too much to the L. or the pool may be missed. It is better to steer W., which course, if it does not bring the rambler to his goal, will at all events bring him to the Ockment—here a tiny rivulet—which he will follow up to the pool.

The return to Belstone forms the latter part of R. 63. Strike E.N.E. or N.E. from the pool, and in  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. the Taw will be seen R. Trace it down to Knock Mine Bridge, then mount the L. bank and follow the track by Oke Tor along the ridge to Watchet Hill (Ex. 17).

A camp road runs up W. of the Taw, and crosses it near its head.

*From STICKLEPATH the route is first to Belstone; thence C. R. 10. Or C. R. 11 may be followed, the Peat Road being reached by way of Cosdon. A path runs up through the wood from near Sticklepath Bridge to the common (see ante, Cosdon, B). From the summit of Cosdon keep S. till the track is struck.*

C. R. 11.—*From SOUTH ZEAL, 6 m., and THROWLEIGH, 6 m.* The Peat Road (T. 41) is followed past Raybarrow Pool to the stone circle, where visitors from Throwleigh join it, making their way thither by the track from Clannaborough Down to the E. side of Raybarrow Pool (T. 42), or by Shilstone, when  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will be saved. From the circle the track goes on below Wild Tor Ridge L. to Bow Combe, at the head of which is Bow Combe Hill, L. Cross Steeperton Brook to Ockside Hill, on which are some cairns and a small pool. Strike over this ridge S.W. to the Taw, and follow it to its head. Thence as in C. R. 10.

The return to the Taw is also as in C. R. 10. Follow it down a little way, and then strike N.E. into the track.

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# GUIDE TO DARTMOOR:

*A Topographical Description  
of the Forest and Commons*

BY  
**WILLIAM CROSSING,**

AUTHOR OF

*The Ancient Stone Crosses of Dartmoor and Its Borderland, Amid Devonia's Alps  
Tales of the Dartmoor Pixies, Gems in a Granite Setting, A Hundred  
Years on Dartmoor, Folk Rhymes of Devon,  
From a Dartmoor Cot, &c.*

---

WITH MAPS AND SKETCHES.  
A NEW EDITION IN FIVE PARTS.

---

## PART III.

**Chagford, Moreton, Lustleigh, and  
Bovey Tracey Districts.**

---

“Rocks, hills, and sky in sleep lethean bound,  
Nor one discordant voice obtruding round.”

JOSEPH COTTELL.

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GREETING.

## PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION.

---

THE favourable reception accorded to the former editions of this Guide has rendered a further issue necessary. In this some considerable alterations in the arrangement have been made. While a description of Dartmoor in one volume had much to recommend it, the plan was also not without its disadvantages. The ground covered being extensive it was impossible to produce such a book as the author considered the subject demanded without its becoming rather bulky, and this was inconvenient from the tourist's point of view. It is now divided into five parts, but there has been no abridgement of matter. The few alterations in the text are chiefly of the nature of additions which were needed in order to bring the book up to date.

The author is much gratified at knowing that the Guide has been found helpful by the tourist in the past, and ventures to believe that in its present form it will prove of still greater value in the future.

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## PREFACE.

---

DURING recent years the claims of Dartmoor as a holiday and health resort have become widely recognized. Those to whom an old world region is an attraction will find in it a field of surpassing interest. No district in England of similar extent is so rich in pre-historic remains, and in none does Nature wear a wilder aspect.

To this elevated tract of land no guide book, in the true sense of the term, has hitherto appeared. It has, of course, been noticed in county guides, and there are also topographical works and handbooks descriptive of it, but in the former the accounts are necessarily superficial, while in the latter the visitor is not given any directions for finding his way over those parts of the waste remote from roads. To enable him to learn what Dartmoor really is he needs something beyond notices of the more celebrated, because more readily accessible, places and objects of interest. He should be led from the beaten track, and wander among the hills where signs of man's occupancy are not, where silence broods over the sea of fen, and the pasture grounds of the cattle that range at will are as they were when the Norman herdsman drove his beasts there; or he should stray into solitary combes encumbered with the ruined huts and fallen rock-pillars of the people who once made this wild land their home. As my acquaintance with Dartmoor is a life-long one, and as it has been with me a subject of study and of systematic investigation during many years, it is with some degree of confidence that I take upon myself the task of conducting the visitor over it, and leading him into its remoter parts.

This book is the first to give a complete topographical description of Dartmoor, and the reader may depend upon its being correct. Its aim is to furnish the visitor with an account of all that is to be found on the moor worthy of note, and to acquaint him with the best means of reaching the various objects from any point. The districts into which the moor has been divided are described in the excursions, and

at the end of these are given routes to each of the other districts. By this arrangement the moor is crossed in every conceivable direction, so that it is not possible to find any part of it that is not noticed somewhere in the book. For the sake of convenience the terms used in connection with the forest and commons are given, with their meanings, in glossarial form, some archæological terms being also included.

I desire to express my thanks to Mr. PHILIP GUY STEVENS, of Princetown, for the series of pen-and-ink sketches he has been at such pains to furnish, and which were executed on the spot. It is hoped they will be found useful as a means of helping the visitor to identify the principal tors and hills.

If I gain the confidence of the rambler who uses this book my satisfaction will be complete. There is some reason for me to hope that I shall do so, as I venture to believe that he will discover ere we have gone far on our wanderings together that I am really and truly a Dartmoor man.



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---

The numbers of the Routes and Excursions as given in the first edition of the Guide are retained throughout. T. signifies Track ; Ex. or S. Ex., Excursion or Shorter Excursion ; R., Route ; and C. R., Cranmere Route. The entire length of each Excursion is given ; Route distances are given one way only.

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# GUIDE TO DARTMOOR.

## IN FIVE PARTS.

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### Part I. PRINCETOWN, TWO BRIDGES, HEXWORTHY, AND POST BRIDGE DISTRICTS.

Deals with the whole of the central part of the Moor, and contains notices of Crazy Well Pool, Siward's Cross, Childe's Tomb, the Merivale Antiquities, Mis Tor, Wistman's Wood, Dartmeet, etc.

Excursions 1 to 6; 41 to 46. Shorter Exs. 1 to 14. Routes 1 to 8. Cranmere Routes 1, 2, 15, 16, 17.

### Part II. TAVISTOCK, LYDFORD, OKEHAMPTON, AND STICKLEPATH DISTRICTS.

Describes Northern Dartmoor, extending from Sampford Spiney on the West to Throwleigh on the East: Notices Brent Tor, Lydford Gorge, Hill Bridge, Tavy Cleave, Fur Tor, the Island of Rocks, Yes Tor, the Belstone Range, Cosdon, etc.

Excursions 7 to 18. S. Exs. 15 to 47. Routes 9 to 30. C.R. 3 to 11.

### Part III. CHAGFORD, MORETON, LUSTLEIGH, AND BOVEY TRACEY DISTRICTS.

A Description of Eastern Dartmoor: This part contains a notice of Cranmere Pool, and among other places and objects included in the Excursions are the Scorhill and Kes Tor Antiquities, Teign Head, Fernworthy, Grim's Pound, Drewsteignton Dolmen, Fingle Bridge, Lustleigh Cleave, Hey Tor, etc.

Excursions 19 to 25. S. Exs. 48 to 87. Routes 31 to 46. C.R. 12, 13, 14.

**Part IV. ASHBURTON, BRENT, IVYBRIDGE, AND CORNWOOD DISTRICTS.**

The whole of Southern Dartmoor, so rich in antiquities and charming border scenery, is described in this part. Among other places noticed are Rippon Tor, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, the Buckland Woods, Holne Chase, Brent Moor, Shipley, the Valley of the Erme, Stowford Cleave, Hawns and Dendles, etc.

Excursions 26 to 34. S. Exs. 88 to 121. Routes 47 to 66. From the southern part of the moor the starting points of the Cranmere Routes are Princetown, Two Bridges, and Post Bridge, C.R. 1, 2, 16, 17. These are given in Part I.

**Part V. PLYMPTON, SHAUGH, YELVERTON, AND DOUSLAND DISTRICTS.**

Describes Western Dartmoor from Cornwood to the Walkham : Shaugh Bridge, the Dewer Stone, the Plym Valley, Meavy, Sheep Tor, and the Burrator Lake. This part also contains a brief description of the old pack-horse tracks on the Moor, to which reference is frequently made in the book, as well as a Dictionary of Terms used in connection with the Forest and Commons.

Excursions 35 to 40. Routes 67 to 76. For Cranmere Routes see Princetown, Two Bridges, and Post Bridge, C.R. 1, 2, 16, 17, in Part I.

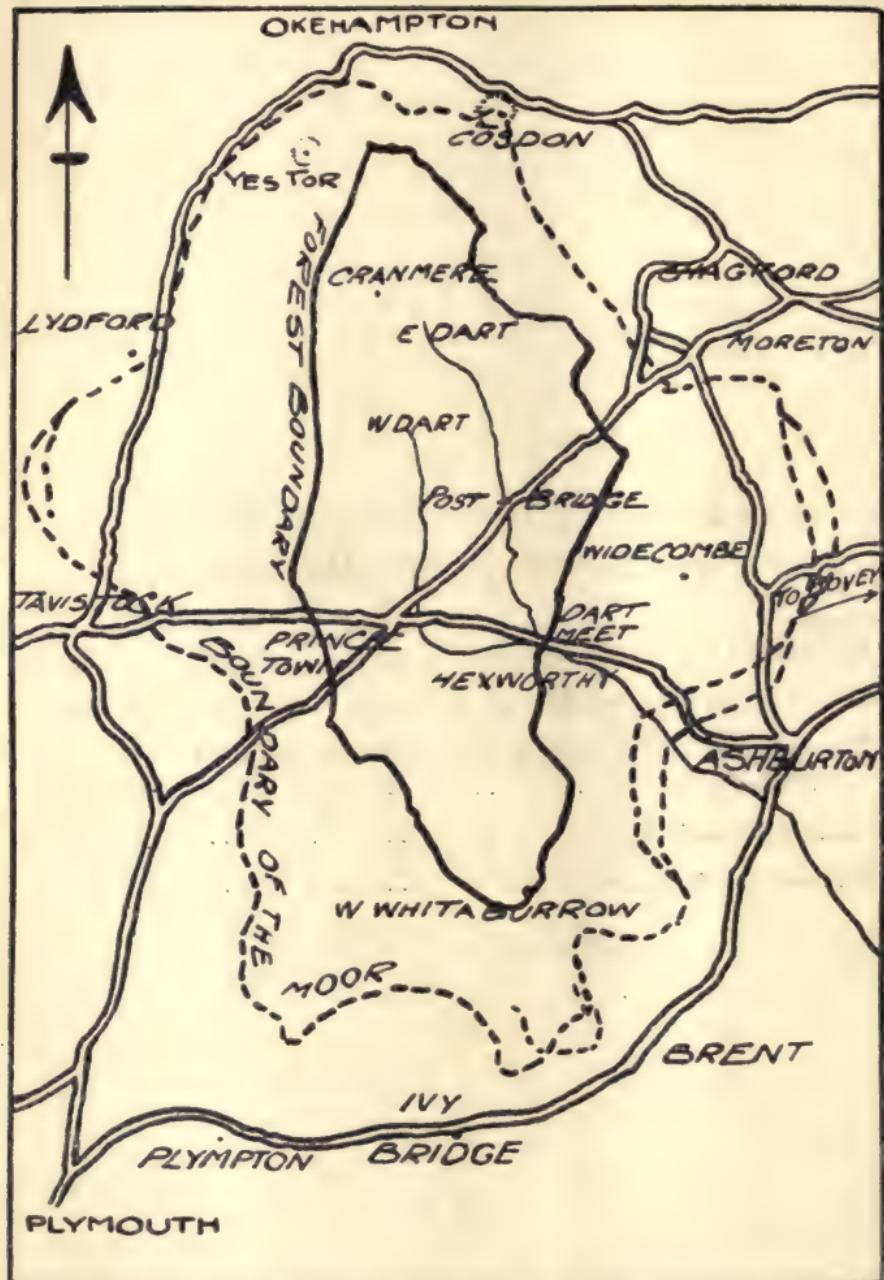
---

Each Part contains directions for reaching Cranmere Pool from the Districts described in it.

Where reference is made to other of the Author's  
books the titles are thus abbreviated.

"A Hundred Years on Dartmoor"	..	..	..	..	100 Years.
"Gems in a Granite Setting"	..	..	..	..	Gems.
"The Ancient Stone Crosses of Dartmoor and Its Borderland"	..	..	..	..	Crosses.
"Amid Devonia's Alps"	..	..	..	..	Dev. Alps.
"Tales of the Dartmoor Pixies"	..	..	..	..	Pixies

# SKETCH MAP



BOUNDARIES OF DARTMOOR  
FOREST & COMMONS.

# GUIDE TO DARTMOOR.

---

## CHAGFORD AND MORETON DISTRICT.

These places are  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles apart, *via* Easton Cross, but as mentioned *post*, the distance between them may be shortened by 1 mile if the road by Great Week and Drewston is followed, which it may well be by the pedestrian. There is a regular road motor service between Chagford and the G.W.R. Station at Moreton, 5 m., and also between Chagford and Exeter, L.S.W.R.

DISTANCES: BY ROAD. *ASHBURTON*, *via* Beetor Cross and Swine Down Gate,  $12\frac{3}{4}$  m. from C.; *via* North Bovey and Swine Down Gate,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  from M. *BARRAMOOR BRIDGE*, C.,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ; M.,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ . *BECKY FALL*, C.,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ ; M.,  $4\frac{3}{4}$ . *BEETOR CROSS*, C.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., 3. *BELSTONE*, C.,  $8\frac{1}{4}$ ; M.,  $11\frac{3}{4}$ . *BOVEY TRACEY*, C.,  $10\frac{3}{4}$ ; M.,  $6\frac{1}{4}$ . *BRIDFORD*, C.,  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., 5. *BUCKFASTLEIGH* (Ashburton road past Welsthor Cross), C.,  $15\frac{1}{4}$ ; M., 14. *BUCKLAND-IN-THE-MOOR*, *via* Widecombe, C., 12; M., 11. *CHRISTOW*, C., 11; M., 7. *CLIFFORD BRIDGE*, C., *via* Uppacott,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; M.,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ . *CREDITON*, C., 14; M., 12. *DARTMEET*, *via* Two Bridges, C.,  $15\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., 17. *DREWSTEIGNTON*, C., 4; M., *via* Easton, 6. *DUNSFORD*, C.,  $8\frac{1}{4}$ ; M., 5. *EASTON*, C.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., 3. *EXETER*, C., 15; M., 12. *FERNWORTHY*, C.,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., *via* Stiniel,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ . *FINGLE BRIDGE*, C.,  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ; M.,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ . *Gidleigh*, C.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., *via* Easton, 7. *GRENDON BRIDGE*, C.,  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., 10. *GRIM'S POUND*, C.,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ; M.,  $5\frac{3}{4}$ . *HEMSWORTHY GATE*, C.,  $8\frac{1}{4}$ ; M., 7. *HENNOCK*, C.,  $10\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., 6. *HEXWORTHY*, C.,  $15\frac{3}{4}$ ; M.,  $17\frac{1}{4}$ . *ILSINGTON*, C.,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., 8. *IVYBRIDGE*, *via* Buckfastleigh, C.,  $25\frac{1}{4}$ ; M., 24. *JURSTON GATE*,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  from C. *LUSTLEIGH*, C., 8; M.,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ . *LYDFORD*, C.,  $19\frac{1}{4}$ ; M.,  $22\frac{3}{4}$ . *MANATON*, C.,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; M.,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ . *METHERAL*, C. M.,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. short of Fernworthy. *MOOR GATE*, C.,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., 4. *NEWTON ABBOT*, C.,  $16\frac{1}{2}$ ; M., 12. *NORTH BOVEY*, C.,  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ; M.,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ . *OKEHAMPTON*, C.,  $10\frac{1}{4}$ ; M.,  $13\frac{3}{4}$ . *PLYMOUTH*, *via* Princetown, C.,  $26\frac{1}{2}$ ; M.,  $28\frac{1}{4}$ . *PLYMPTON*, *via* Princetown, C., 26; M.,  $27\frac{1}{2}$ . *POST BRIDGE*, C., 7; M.,  $8\frac{1}{2}$ . *PRINCETOWN*, C., 12; M.,  $13\frac{1}{2}$ . *SANDY PARK*, C.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; M.,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ . *SOUTH BRENT*, C.,  $20\frac{1}{4}$ ; M., 19. *SOUTH TAWTON*, C. M.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond South Zeal. *SOUTH ZEAL*, C.,  $6\frac{1}{4}$ ; M.,  $9\frac{3}{4}$ . *STICKLEPATH*, *via* Throwleigh, C.,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; M.,  $10\frac{1}{4}$ . *SWINE DOWN GATE*, C.,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ;

## CHAGFORD AND MORETON DISTRICT.

*M.*, 5. *TAVISTOCK*, C., 18½; *M.*, 20. *THROWLEIGH*, C., 3½;  
*M.*, 8. *TWO BRIDGES*, C., 10½; *M.*, 12. *WARREN HOUSE INN*, C., 4½; *M.*, 6½. *WHIDDON DOWN*, C., 4½; *M.*, 6½.  
*WIDECOMBE*, C., 9; *M.*, 8. *YELVERTON*, C., 18; *M.*, 19½.  
*YEOFORD*, C., 11; *M.*, 13.

BY RAIL from *MORETONHAMPSTEAD* (G.W.R.) to *LUSTLEIGH*, 3½ m.; *BOVEY TRACEY*, 6½ m.; *NEWTON ABBOT*, 12½ m. Distances from *NEWTON* are given in the *Bovey Tracey District*.

---

### Important Points and Landmarks.

*Beetor Cross*—*Kes Tor*—*Metheral*—*Moor Gate* (Princetown Road)—*Newhouse*, or *Warren House Inn*, on the Princetown Road—*Teign Head Farm*—*Watern Tor*—*White Moor Stone*. *Places of Interest*. *Becky Falls*—*Bowerman's Nose*—*Bradford Pool*—*Cranbrook Castle*—*Fernworthy*—*Fingle Bridge* and *Gorge*—*Gidleigh Castle and Chase*—*Hameldon*—*Holy Street*—*Lustleigh Cleave*—*Prestonbury Camp*—*Raybarrow Pool*—*The Tolmen*—*Week Down*—*Whiddon Park*—*Wooston Castle*. *Prehistoric Antiquities*. *Assacombe*: row, menhir, and circle—*Challacombe*: stone row—*Clannaborough Down*: huts and reaves—*Froggymead stone circle*—*Grim's Pound*: large hut enclosure—*Little Hound Tor*: stone circle—*Metheral*: huts—*Scorhill Down*: stone circle—*Shapley Common*: hut circles—*Shovel Down*: rows and sepulchral remains—*Spinsters' Rock*: dolmen, near *Drewsteignton*—*Waters Down*: stone row. *Mining Remains*. North and South *Teign*, and *Walla Brook*: stream works.—South *Teign* below *Metheral*: blowing houses.

*Chagford* had an early connection with Dartmoor as one of the Stannary towns, and it has a later one consequent upon the favour it has found with visitors to the moorland district. The parish is divided into four quarters, and there are three manors, one of them belonging to the Duchy. This is the Prince's Manor, or Manor of Great Week. The tract of land now forming Whiddon Park was purchased by Sir John Widdon in the reign of Elizabeth. In the churchyard is the grave of James Perrott, long known to all visitors to Chagford as the Dartmoor guide.

As our excursions will commence at Gidleigh, Teigncombe, Metheral, and Moor Gate, it will be more convenient to describe here the way to those points both from Chagford and Moreton, and first of all the road between these two.

*Moreton to Chagford*, 4½ m., and *Reverse*. Few directions are necessary. The road runs north-westward from the town, and all that the visitor need remember is not to branch R. About 1½ m. from the town the road forks, at a point known as Half Way House, and he may choose either branch. The L. is the shorter way, but the R. is the better road. If he decide upon the former all he has to do is to maintain a westerly course. Drewston is first passed and then Great Week, his destination being reached 2 m. from the forks. The road R. will bring him in 1½ m. to Easton Cross (straight on to Sandy Park, R. to Uppacott), where he will turn L., and reach Chagford in another 1½ m., or rather less. Conversely, the pedestrian from Chagford

desiring to go by the shorter way, will pass round the east end of the churchyard, and follow the lane E. by Great Week and Drewston to the forks, where he will keep straight on for Moreton. If he chooses the other way he will pass down through the town with the Moor Park Hotel L., and taking care not to branch L. to Rushford Bridge, will make his way to Easton Cross,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., where he will turn R., and in about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. will reach Half Way House, entering Moreton  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. further on.

*Chagford to Gidleigh*,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. Crossing the Teign at Chagford Bridge, which is mentioned by the sixteenth century topographer, Leland, the visitor passes upward, and L., to Walland Hill, and thence westward to Murchington. The way lies through this, and the visitor, turning neither R. nor L., soon begins to descend to Highbury Bridge, where he crosses the Blackaton Brook. Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. up the lane a turning R. leads directly to the village. Visitors from Moreton will pass through Chagford.

*Chagford to Teigncombe Down*. (A) By Yeo Bridge,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  m. (B) By Leigh Bridge,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. (A) Instead of descending to Chagford Bridge turn L. at the end of the town. The road runs down at first, and then up to Waye Barton, where the family of Pronus were seated in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and here it forks. Keep R. to Thorn, where a road branches L. to Collihole, the ancient Colleewe, and the moor. Avoid this, and follow the road on to Yeo Bridge, on the South Teign, just beyond which another road runs L. to Great Frenchbere and Thornworthy. But the way lies past the mill to a point about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on, where North Hill Lane comes up R. from Leigh Bridge. Turn L. to the hamlet of Teigncombe, whence the moor may be reached by way of Teigncombe Common Lane (S. Ex. 50), or by turning R. at the hamlet, and then L. to the moor gate near Brimstone Down. (B) A shorter route to Teigncombe is by way of Holy Street and Leigh Bridge. The visitor will pass down the hill as for Chagford Bridge, but will turn L. at the old serge factory and follow the narrow road, with the mill stream R., to Holy Street. Passing this he will climb the hill, and soon after descend to Leigh Bridge, where he will cross the South Teign immediately above its confluence with the northern branch of that stream. North Hill Lane must then be followed upward to Teigncombe,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the bridge. Visitors from Moreton will first make their way to Chagford.

*Chagford to Metheral*,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  m. To the fork at Waye Barton, as in the preceding route A., or over Meldon Common, as in S. Ex. 57; then branch L., and at the fork on the western edge of Meldon Common keep R. to Tannaford. (There is a guide-post here). Avoid the turning L. just beyond this place. The moor is entered about 1 m. further on at Tawton Gate, near Yardworthy, and the enclosures of Metheral are reached in another  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. The same point may also be arrived at by passing Waye Barton and turning L. at Thorn, whence a lane runs straight to the moor, passing Hole and Collihole.

*Moreton to Metheral*,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. The Princetown, or western, road is followed past Bughead Cross,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m., to a point where it forks,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on. Striking into the R. branch the visitor will make his way past Thorn (not the farm named in the preceding route), and thence to a stile in the hedge L.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on, where he will cross one field and reach the road again. His next point is Batworthy,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. (this must not be confounded with the estate of that name near Teigncombe),

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and less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond it he will reach the junction of the road he is following with one coming L. from Beotor Cross, which is marked by a guide-post. A little further on the Chagford road runs off R. The visitor must bear L., and passing between Higher and Lower Stiniel will make his way to Jurston Common, through which the Bovey river runs. He must not descend to the stream, but follow the road across the little common W., and so on to Jurston Cross, where is a guide-post. (See next Route). Taking care not to turn R. or L. he will continue on the road to the next guide-post, where he will branch L. to Corndon, which is not far off. Here, turning R., he will proceed for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. and reach the road coming up from Waye Barton, where he will turn L. and soon find himself on that part of the moor formerly known as Tawton Common, with the Metheral enclosures before him.

*Chagford to Moor Gate, via Jurston Gate, 3 m.* Turning R. from the High Street at the southern corner of the churchyard the visitor will pass on by the school and up the hill to Meldon Hall, the direction being due S. Here he will bear R., as also at the next branch at Higher Weddicott. He will then skirt Meldon Hill for a short distance, when the road again forks, the point being marked by a guide-post. Avoid bearing R., and keep straight on to Yellands, and thence to Jurston Cross, where is another guide-post. The way then lies S. to Jurston Bridge, on the Bovey river, a little beyond which the visitor will arrive at Jurston Farm. The road bears R., or westerly, and then abruptly turns L. and runs up the hill to Jurston Gate. Moor Gate (*i.e.*, the point so named where the Moreton road enters the moor) is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E., and to reach it direct the narrow valley of the Bovey must be crossed. There will, however, be no necessity for doing this for the purpose of our excursions. The common may also be reached from Jurston by following up the stream instead of proceeding by the road. See also *Chagford to Beotor Cross*.

*Moreton to Moor Gate, 4 m.* Few directions are needed here, the Princetown road simply being followed. The first point is Bughead Cross,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m., where a road comes N. from Easton and Sandy Park, and goes S. to Lustleigh. The L. branch is taken at the forks just beyond it, and Wormhill Bridge over the Bovey is reached  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. further on. Beyond this keep R. at the branch, and climb Worm Hill. Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. after passing the farm so named Beotor Cross (R. 32, 53) will be reached, where is a guide-post. Descend the hill to the point where the old stone cross stands on a bank, and then follow the road R., or westerly, for 1 m. to Moor Gate. For a further notice of this road *vide* S. Ex. 59, and *Crosses*, Chap. XIV.

*Chagford to Beotor Cross, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.* To the forks at Higher Weddicott, as in going to Moor Gate. Take the branch L., and follow the road past Lower Weddicott to the cross road. Then turn down the hill R., to the guide-post just below the turning R. to Stiniel. Take the R. branch, and follow the road S. to Beotor Bridge. Thence past Beotor Farm direct to the cross. The return route is given in S. Ex. 61.

Another road leads to Beotor Cross from Jurston Cross (see above). On reaching the last-named point the road running down to Langaford Bridge L., or south-easterly, must be chosen. From the bridge it goes on direct to the Princetown road, which it joins about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Beotor Cross, L., Moor Gate being  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. R.

## Excursions from Chagford and Moreton.

The district here described is bounded on the north by a line drawn from Shilstone Tor to Wild Tor, and on the south by one extending from Heathercombe past Grim's Pound to the Warren House Inn and Assacombe Hill, and embraces Gidleigh Common, Chagford Common, the common lands of North Bovey, and part of the commons in Manaton parish, and also a portion of the east side of the forest.

[Tracks Nos. 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 77.]

Ex. 19.—*Creber Pound, Buttern Hill, Rival Tor, Mining Remains, Wild Tor. [EXTENSION TO OCKMENT HILL AND NEWTAKE, ADD 4 M.] Walla Brook Combe, Watern Tor, Manga Hill, Teign Head Farm, Battey Meres, Scorhill Circle, Berry Down. From and to Gidleigh 2½ m. from Chagford, 11 m.*

Leaving Gidleigh, which is noticed in S. Ex. 49, 50, by the road running north-eastward, with the castle on our L., we soon reach the old manor pound R., and then turn L. up the hill to Creber Pound. Just before arriving at the gate we shall notice the road branching R. at an acute angle to Moortown and Ensworth (R. 24, 38). Creber Pound, though for several centuries a drift pound, is really a small piece of common separated from the open moor by enclosures. Besides the entrance by which we reach it there are two others leading up to which roads will be seen. The one on the L. is at the lower end of Berry Down Stroll, and the other at the head of the pound at Creber Farms. It is mentioned in a document of Charles the First's reign, where it is set forth that at the time of the drifts "cattle are driven to a pound called Dunnabridge Pound if they are found in the east, west, and south quarter of the forest, and if found in the north quarter of the forest to a pound called Creber Pound." Making our way up through this ancient enclosure by the road R. we speedily reach South Creber L., and North Creber R., and passing through a short stroll emerge on the open moor. Our next point is the summit of Buttern Hill (R. 24, 38), on which is a small cluster of rocks sometimes referred to as Buttern Tor, and to which also the name of the Cuckoo Stone has been given, rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the N.W. We pass a newtake on the slope R. as we ascend (R. 25). This does not join any others, but a little northward, near Buttern House, there are several, as well as many old enclosures. This small farm place was built by a moorman who used to pasture cattle on the northern part of the forest at the time when Creber Pound was used much more than it is at present. Several hut circles exist in the neighbourhood of these enclosures on the down, but the most interesting object is a stone circle, though, unfortunately, it has been partly destroyed. We shall find it about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of the rocks. A green path (T. 43) coming from Ensworth N., and running along the E. side of White Moor Bottom (Ex. 18), will be seen leading to it.

Leaving the head of this bottom, and the Pixies' Parlour (Ex. 18)

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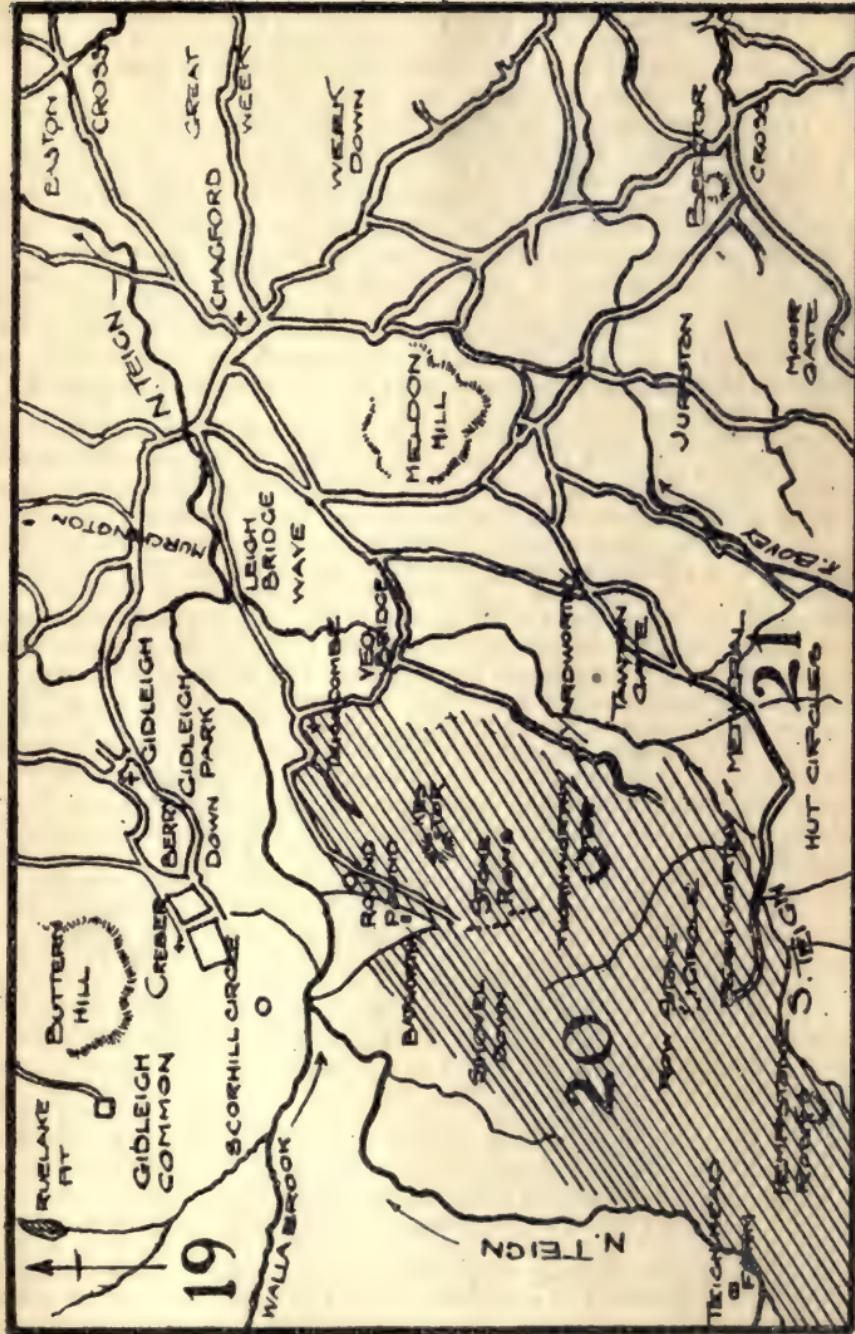
R., we strike S.W. to Rival Tor, which is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. away (T. 43). This we shall find to consist of one lump of granite, near the summit of a low hill (1,379 feet), the western side, which descends to a little feeder of the Walla Brook, being covered with grass to such an extent as almost to resemble a meadow. This feeder comes down from the mire at Gallaven (Ex. 17),  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. N.W. by W., and another branch of it from Rue Lake Pit, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. by N. Near the head of Gallaven Mire, and over the shoulder of the hill W.N.W., is a bank about 14 feet wide, and about 150 feet long, having something the appearance of a track, though I have been unable to discover any other parts of it in the same line. It runs N. and S., and passes over the boggy ground. It may have had some connection with the mining remains on the banks of the little Rue Lake, a short distance below the mire, and which are known in the locality as the White Works. Some vestiges of these we shall see as we presently make our way to Wild Tor.

Although Rival Tor, which, were it not spoken of as Rifle Tor by the moor people we might possibly be inclined to regard as being a corruption of the Celtic *Yr Eifl* (*f* as *v*), and which, indeed, means *The Rival*, is not of great height, several important landmarks are in view from it. White Moor Stone (Ex. 17) is seen standing out against the sky to the N.W., with Kennon Hill (Ex. 18) a little to the R. of it. Hound Tor bears N.W. by W., and Steeperton Tor W. by N.; Wild Tor rises across the little valley W. by S., and Watern Tor, the prominent object in all this part of the moor, S.W., the two ridges on which these stand being separated by the dip forming the entrance to Walla Brook Combe. Away to the southward Siddaford Tor (Ex. 20, 45) is seen, and S.E. the square mass of Kes Tor.

Striking W.S.W. we shall descend the grassy side of Rival Tor to a point on Rue Lake where a leat is taken from it, close to which is a little fording place. (This is the leat that runs by Scorhill Rocks and across the stroll above Berry Down). Here the stone heaps testify to the former presence of the tinner, and near to the ford is one of his curious erections. It is of the kind which are regarded as shelters, in which it is thought the miners placed their tools when leaving the scene of their labours for the in-country. Peat cutters sometimes adopt a similar plan, and conceal their "irons" under a heap of peat. The stones composing it are set in the ground on their edges, above which is an overhanging rock forming a canopy, or roof. Lower down the stream is a larger fording-place with a track leading to it. This, which is not very plain in places, is the one seen at the stone circle on Buttern Hill (T. 43).

Our way now lies up the hill W. by S. to Wild Tor, rather over 1 m. distant, the Walla Brook being on our L. At the entrance to Walla Brook Combe, where the stream bends, previously flowing from the S., we reach a point known as Wild Tor Well, to which the forest boundary comes northward from Hound Tor, and crossing the stream is carried up to Watern Tor. The so-called Well is mentioned in 1702 as a mark standing on the boundary, and it is also one common to the parishes of Throwleigh and Gidleigh, which here meet on the forest line. It is about 150 yards from the Walla Brook where this is nearest to it, or twice that distance if the boundary line be followed, and which here runs S. by E. to the northern pile of Watern Tor. It has

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been suggested that Wild Tor Well was not on the old forest boundary but was named later as a bondmark for the purpose of making the line agree with that which the Jury of Survey had presented in 1609. There is no foundation whatever for this.

Passing up the hill W. by N. from the Well we reach Wild Tor,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., 1,741 feet. This pile, which stands amid scattered granite, is situated on a lofty ridge rising between the Steeperton Brook on the W. (Ex. 17), and the Gallaven Mire and Walla Brook Combe on the E. Steeperton Tor, seen across the valley to the N.N.W., is about 1 m. distant. Northward the ground slopes downward towards Hound Tor, but southward it rises to the lofty Newtake Hill, which attains an elevation of 1,803 feet. This is sometimes called Hangingstone Hill, but that name is usually considered by the moormen to belong only to the N.W. side of it, where there is a small outlying pile of rock. Between Wild Tor and Newtake there are several very large cairns.

[*Extension to Ockment Hill and Newtake.* This will take the rambler through some of the more remote parts of the forest. Striking W.S.W. from Wild Tor he will, in less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., reach the Steeperton Brook a short distance below its source. He will then steer a little N. of W. over Ockside Hill to Taw Rocks,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., where that river is crossed, and still following the same course will, in another  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., reach the summit of Ockment Hill (Ex. 16 and Cranmere Routes). In returning he will strike S.E. to newtake, crossing the Taw on the way, but rather further up stream than before. The summit of Newtake consists of good hard ground, on which are scattered rocks, though the hill itself is on the edge of the fen. A fragment of wall exists there, and to this it owes its present name. It is said that in the early days of Teignhead Farm its extension was contemplated, and that the formation of a great newtake was projected that would include the top of this hill. As the founder of the place took in no less than 1,400 acres, we can very well believe that he would have no scruples about enclosing a few hundred more, and his reason for not going on with the work of robbing the commoners may possibly have been the discovery that farming operations on the Dartmoor fen were not likely to prove remunerative. The view from Newtake is very fine. To the N. is Ock Tor, with Steeperton Tor a little to the R. of it. N.E. is Wild Tor, with Cosdon rising grandly some  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond. E. by N. we see Watern Tor; southward we look upon White Horse Hill; S.W. the rocks of Fur Tor appear; westward is Rattlebrook Hill, with Hare Tor and Great Links Tor, and the high land of Amicombe; and R. of these are Willes, Yes Tor, and West and East Mil Tor. On leaving the hill we strike N.E., and soon come in sight of Walla Brook Combe R. Looking across it E. we see Watern Tor, but instead of making for it direct shall bear a little to the L. Presently we discern a track climbing the side of the hill under the tor, and this becomes our point. We cross the Walla Brook and follow the path towards the tor.]

Leaving Wild Tor we pass down the granite strewn slope S. by E. to the Walla Brook, and make our way by the track referred to above to Watern Tor, 1,756 feet. This pile bore the name of Thurlestone in the thirteenth century, for there can hardly be a doubt that it is the bound named as such by the Perambulators of 1240. This name is

supposed to be derived from the appearance presented by the two northern piles, which, when viewed from certain points, give the idea of being one in which is a large aperture, the *thurl*, or *thirl*, stone being thus the perforated stone, the term having its origin in the Anglo-Saxon *thyrelan*, to pierce. An arched rock on the shore of Bigbury Bay, between the mouth of the Avon and Hope Cove, which much resembles this tor seen from a distance, bears the name of Thurlestone Rock, and this seems to me confirmatory of its derivation. I have a copy of a document in my possession in which the forest line is drawn to the east of the one recognized by the border commoners, and this runs to what is there called Thurston Tor, or Stone Tor. But I cannot find any other mention of Thurston Tor as identical with Stone Tor. The name of the next bondmark also helps to prove that Thurlestone was the bound to which the old Perambulators came. This is Manga Rock,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.E. of Watern Tor, *manga* being a Gaelic word meaning a boundary mark. We have elsewhere noticed the instance of the Saxone *hareston* (T. 44), occurring on the line, and when we find such names as these, and remember also that most of the objects forming the early bondmarks can still be identified with certainty, we shall be justified in believing that the bounds of the forest of Dartmoor have altered very little since they were perambulated in 1240.

Watern Tor, which has also been called Watern Borough, exhibits in its present name a shortened form of that by which it was known three hundred years ago, it being then referred to as Waterdontor. Thurlestone is the name attaching to the two northern piles only.

Less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. by S. of Watern Tor is the N.W. corner of the Teignhead Farm enclosure. One wall, about 2 m. in length, comes up from the S., and another, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. long, from the E., the latter climbing the steep hill from the Teign. Not far from the corner is a gate, and passing through this we shall find ourselves on Hew Down, and close to Hewthorn Clitter. As we proceed, our course being a little E. of S., we leave Manga Rock below us L., and cross the head of a streamlet referred to in 1702 as Hugh Lake (*vide post*). Thence passing over Manga Hill, and crossing Manga Brook, we shall reach the farmhouse, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the corner near which we entered the enclosure.

Teignhead Farm was taken in from the forest somewhere about twenty years before the close of the eighteenth century by a Mr. Rogers, who built the house, and lived there many years. He was succeeded in 1817 by a Mr. Dodd, and thirty years later Mr. James Endacott became the tenant. After him, in 1872, came his son—known in this part of the moor as Teignhead George—who, however, only remained there three years. Then the place was taken by Mr. John Gemmell, of Woolwell, in the parish of Bickleigh, as a summer run for cattle, and about 1878 was acquired by Mr. Lamb, of Prince Hall (Ex. 4), who placed a shepherd there, and devoted it to the rearing of Scotch sheep. But the venture did not prove very successful, and the place is again used as a summer grazing farm. There was formerly another homestead on it at Great Varracombe, called Mandles, where a son of James Endacott once lived, and brought up a large family. The place is now in ruins.

Proceeding down the rough track that leads from the house to the river we shall soon find ourselves at Teignhead Bridge, a clapper

erected by Mr. Rogers. It consists of four piers with three openings, three stones being laid over each. Its length is nearly 28 feet, and its width 6 feet 9 inches.

The track by which we have reached it goes on to Fernworthy (T. 45); we shall not, however, cross the river and follow this, but shall make our way down its L. bank. Just below the bridge, and a little removed from the river, are the remains of some tanners' buildings, and still further down a waterfall. We shall also pass a fording-place, which may possibly be the Mangersford mentioned in a presentment at a Court of the Manor of Lydford, in the 20th of Henry VI. The little tributary which we cross is Hew Lake, and the spot at which it joins the Teign was formerly known as Blackstone. It seems probable that Hew Lake is the Whoodelake of 1609, and the Woodlake of ninety years later,\* although on a copy of an old map in my possession this name is given to the little stream that rises S.E. of Stone Tor Hill, and flows by the enclosures of Thornworthy into the South Teign, or Little Teign, as the river is there called. Below Hew Lake the North Teign enters a level, part of which appears on the map in question as Battey Meres, a name which may have reference to the boundary of the forest near by, or to a former lake of which the level has been supposed to be the bed, though it is possible that Battery (*i.e.*, Batworthy) Mires, which I have heard the spot called, may after all be the correct form. On this level, which is bounded on the N. by the Walla Brook, the former presence of the tin-streamer is plainly shown. The ground has been worked most extensively, and heaps of debris, now covered with vegetation, extend for some distance along the bank of the Teign.

We shall turn away a little from the river after passing Hew Lake Foot, where the wall of the Teignhead enclosure runs up the hill, and pass round to the L. of a swampy flat, our course being northward towards the Walla Brook. When about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Hew Lake, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the nearest corner of the wall, we shall come upon a little hut, but not of the kind usually associated with the tanners. It measures only 6 feet by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet internally, the back wall being 5 feet high, and the front one rather lower. The doorway is intact, and there is a fire-place. It was probably a shepherd's or a peat cutter's shelter.

We now make our way to the Walla Brook, which we shall follow downward to its junction with the Teign. Here it is spanned by a single stone clapper, and it will also be seen that its banks are walled in the manner of those on the East Dart above Sandy Hole (Ex. 45, R. 10 B, 36 B). Immediately below the confluence is Teign Clapper, which replaces a structure known more than 200 years ago by that name, and which was swept away by a great flood in 1826. Quite close to this, and opposite to the corner of the Batworthy enclosures on the

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\* The sound of the *W* would disappear in Dartmoor speech, and the name be pronounced Oodlake, or Hoodlake, from which Hewlake would be a natural transition, since the native drops the *a* sound equally with that of the *w*. Hood Lake is the form given in Westcote's *View of Devon in 1630*, which, however, was not published until 1845. In the sixteenth century, and also at the beginning of the eighteenth, there is mention of a Hugh Stone, but this seems to indicate an object S. of the Teign.

other side of the stream, is the curious Holed Stone, which, in the days when everything on Dartmoor out of the ordinary was ascribed to the Druids, was regarded as having been perhaps used by them for some mysterious purpose connected with their religious rites, and was looked upon as a tolmen. And such it is in so far as it is a stone with a hole in it, but it is of quite a different character from the tolmen that is classed as a pre-historic monument. The story used to be told that people were brought here to be "christened"; probably this arose after antiquaries began to show curiosity concerning it. The hole, which is about three feet in diameter, is worn through an immense block of granite that rests in the bed of the Teign, and close to its L. bank. Many rocks with cavities worn partly through them by the action of the water may be seen on the Dartmoor streams.

On Scorhill Down, due N. of the Holed Stone, and only a short distance from it, is the fine stone circle usually known by the same name as the common. It is 90 feet in diameter, and consists of 24 upright stones, and eight fallen ones, but the breaks in it seem to show that there were formerly more than this. One, which is much higher than the others, is about 8 feet in height, and another, standing nearly opposite to it, is about 6 feet. The others are lower, some being under 3 feet. There is little doubt that when the walls near by were built this monument suffered at the hands of those engaged in the work, and unfortunately it was again assailed by the vandal a few years ago, one of its stones being split for posts. This destructive work was, however, quickly discovered and stopped.

Striking north-eastward we shall make our way to Berry Down Stroll, the head of which is only  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. distant. Down through this stroll we pass, and at the bottom turn R. to Berry Down Farm, or Beridon, as it is sometimes called, and apparently with more correctness, whence one Autumn day, in the 24th of Henry VIII., John Roo, its holder, set out to the Parliament of the Tinners on Crockern Tor. We pass the farm and make our way down the long lane to Highbury Bridge, returning to Chagford through Murchington, as in R. 24 B.

Ex. 20.—*Teigncombe Down, The Round Pound, Shovel Down Stone Rows, The Long Stone, The Three Boys, Fernworthy, Circle on Froggy-mead Hill, Long Ridge, The Grey Weithers, Siddaford Tor [Quintin's Man, add 2 m.], Kes Tor. From and to Teigncombe Down (2½ m. from Chagford,) 9 m.*

Entering upon the common at the moor gate at Brimstone Down we follow the road for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., when we shall reach the object known as the Round Pound. This stands close beside the track, and in the midst of a group of remains consisting of reaves, or low banks, and hut circles, and one or two rectangular enclosures, the whole being overlooked by the prominent Kes Tor. The Round Pound is really the remains of a large hut dwelling surrounded by a wall, the space between the two being divided into half a dozen small courts, or pens, by low walls radiating from the hut to the outer rampart. Across the road, and a short distance up the hill, is another enclosure, but rectangular in form, and which is also somewhat similarly divided into pens. The hut circles on this part of the common show as that a very extensive settlement of the primitive people of the moor once existed here. And it is one of more than ordinary interest; for, standing in

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proximity to these ruined dwellings, are also many sepulchral monuments, while in the immediate vicinity a vast number of flint implements, consisting of arrow-heads, knives, and scrapers, have been found. These were first discovered in 1887, on the adjoining estate of Batworthy, and were so numerous that by 1889 Mr. F. N. Budd, the owner, had collected no less than 6,400 specimens, including flakes and nodules. As many of these were of chocolate coloured chert, similar to the chert pebbles at Sidmouth, Mr. Budd was led to the belief that much of the material was brought from the further side of the Exe. The fields in which the specimens were found were evidently formed on a spot once devoted to their manufacture. Further specimens have been obtained there since 1889. The monuments referred to we shall find on Shovel Down, to which we make our way by following the track, with the enclosures of Batworthy R., to Batworthy Corner, where the wall forms a sharp angle, and is carried down the hill in a north-westerly direction to the North Teign at the Holed Stone (Ex. 19). Exactly 300 yards S. by W. of Batworthy Corner is a group of stones forming the remains of three concentric circles, and if the visitor first makes his way to this he will the better be able to follow the brief description of the monuments here given. They cannot be said to be particularly striking, for the stones composing them are small, but they are interesting as furnishing examples of the circle, the row, the cairn, and the menhir. They have obtained some note in consequence of being situated on a border common often visited, but the rambler who knows Dartmoor will hardly fail to remember places where remains much more striking are to be seen. Standing in the triple circle and looking northward the visitor will have before him two double stone rows, one running almost due N., and extending for about 140 yards, and the other running N. by W. for about the same distance. Now turning southward the observer will find another row before him, also double. This runs in a direction S. by E. for 110 yards, and terminates in a dilapidated cairn, probably the site of a vanished kist. Having reached this point, and still looking southward, he will have yet another double row before him, although it does not start from the cairn, but some few score yards further on. Upon the line of this row stands the fine menhir known as the Long-stone, to which the visitor now makes his way. This ancient monolith is ten feet in height, and forms one of the forest bondimarks, a purpose it has probably served from an early time. It seems to be either the Heighston or Langestone of the perambulators of 1240.\* It also stands at that point on the forest boundary line where the common lands belonging to Gidleigh and Chagford meet. Southward of the menhir about 220 yards is a stone that once formed a supporter of a capstone of a dolmen. This single block, and the former name of the dolmen—it was called the Three Boys—are all that remains of a monu-

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\* Among other forms of these names mentioned at various periods (though it is by no means certain that they refer to the same object), are Hangleston, Hengston, Highstone, Yessetone, Gotestone, and Yestelay. We have already referred to Hugh Stone (Ex. 19); this also appears as Fewstone; and Heath Stone seems also to be called Gesstone, while in 1699 there is mention of an object in its vicinity, if not identical with it, called Half Stone.

ment which, were it now in a complete state, would have given us an object of antiquity such as this part of the moor now furnishes no example of, and would have lent much additional interest to these Shovel Down remains.

Striking S. from the Three Boys, but bearing a little to the L., we soon reach a small stream, a tributary of the South Teign, and shall make our way down this through Longstone Bottom, a rather marshy spot, with Thornworthy Tor on our L. When about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the ruined dolmen we enter a stroll formed on the L. by the enclosures of Thornworthy, and on the R. by those of Fernworthy. In this stroll, which runs down to the Teign, and not far from the left bank of the little tributary stream, a good example of a kistvaen may be seen. It was only brought to light about 1880, having previously been buried beneath a small mound. On removing the cover stone and examining this sarcophagus, some fragments of pottery and flints were discovered. In some of the examples on the moor the covering slab is missing (although this is not found to be the case where the kists are far removed from newtake walls), but usually it is seen lying near the grave. In the present instance, instead of being thrown on one side it was supported on some fragments of rock quite near to the kist, but in such a manner as not to interfere with the view of the interior. One side stone of this rude coffin is five feet long, the other being 3 ft. 7 inches at the top; the end stones are 2 feet, and 1 foot 9 inches long respectively, the height of the whole being about 2 feet. The cover stone is 5 feet in length, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet in width at its widest part. The circle formed by the bank that enclosed the low mound that covered the kist is 24 feet in diameter, interior measurement.

Making our way down to the Teign we shall turn R. and follow that stream upward to Fernworthy Bridge. Here close to the modern erection is a fine example of the single stone clapper. The slab forming this solid footway is rather over ten feet in length, and nearly four feet wide, and is about a foot thick. The road, which comes down to the bridge from Metheral, runs past the farmhouse to Froggymead Hill, whence a green track goes out to Teign Head (T. 45). Fernworthy is an old settlement, and formerly consisted of three farms, and is referred to in a seventeenth century document as a village. It is not, however, one of the ancient forest tenements, nor is it strictly a part of the forest, although it lies within its boundaries, and is consequently in the parish of Lydford. Rather over 200 years ago it was in the possession of a Farmer Lightfoot, and the letter L cut in the stone over the doorway, which bears the date 1690, in all probability refers to him. The estate is mentioned by the Jury of Survey, who enquired into the bounds of the forest in 1609, so that the date on the stone evidently records some alterations, or enlargement, only. A considerable portion of the land has been enclosed within the last hundred years or so, but had previously belonged to the estate, and was defined by a tin bound. Other parts of it are Lowtons, Silkhouse, Assacombe, Brownhills, and Little Newtake, and it extends along both banks of the Teign. Fernworthy is a good example of a moorland dwelling, and like most of the Dartmoor homesteads in similar situations, is sheltered by some fine sycamores.

Passing the house, near to which we shall notice an old well, we make our way to the head of the lane, where a gate opens on Froggymead

Hill. Here, built into the wall, is a large stone having a circular hollow sunk in it. The rambler round Chagford will meet with many of these stones. The hollows were intended to receive the stanchion of a gate, one of the holed stones being fixed in the ground, and the other placed so as to project from the wall or hedge in which it was built. This upper stone was, of course, not secured until the gate was put in its proper position. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.W. of the gate is a good example of the stone circle. It is not of great size, the diameter being only about sixty feet, nor do the stones rise high above the turf, but it is in a capital state of preservation. Two or three of the stones appear to be missing. A short distance N. by E. are the remains of a stone row, and the vestiges of another are to be seen to the S. of the circle. This has led to a suggestion that these rows were once connected with the ones we have just examined near the Longstone, and also that the latter may perhaps have been continued to the circle at Scorhill (Ex. 19). In fact, the idea has been so elaborated that a sketch plan has been made in which the rows are shown to extend throughout the whole of the distance from Froggymead to Scorhill. But there is no reason for supposing that these remains on Froggymead Hill ever formed part of the Longstone group, or that the latter were linked up with the Scorhill circle. The existence of a cluster of antiquities near to another of a similar character furnishes no ground for supposing them to have been connected with each other. But by means of an imaginary plan it would, of course, be easy to show that the whole of the antiquities in the moorland region once formed a single group.

Turning south-westward we shall make our way to Hemstone Rocks, situated on that stretch near Long Ridge known as Tom's Hill, passing a few hut circles as we proceed. Near to us, on the L., is the South Teign, and on the further side of that stream the slope of Assacombe Hill. Ages ago this quiet valley was the scene of the secret meetings of a handsome youth and a fair maiden. Who or what they were the story does not tell us, further than that the lady dwelt somewhere near by on the border of the moor, and that her lover was in hiding in the forest, but was "kept out of his rights." (Cf. the story of Gaveston, Ex. 2). From Hemstone Rocks, below which is Hemstone Bottom, we pass up the hill W.S.W. to the circles known as the Grey Wethers,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. This name, which we find applied to similar monuments in other parts of the country, is popularly supposed to have been derived from a fancied resemblance of the group of stones to a flock of sheep. I have elsewhere related [Crosses, Chap. XIV.] how these stones were once the object of a practical joke, having been sold by a man named Debben to a farmer, who was a stranger to this part of the moor, as so many grey wethers. The bargain was struck in the Warren House Inn, and the farmer was directed to go to the newtake near Siddaford Tor, where he would be able to see his purchase. This he did, but unlike Bo Peep found not only that the sheep would not come home, but also that they had no tails to bring behind them.\* The Grey Wethers consist of two circles, the circumferences of which nearly touch each other. The northern

\* I gathered this story many years ago from the late Mr. Richard Cleave, of Hexworthy.

one is 100 feet in diameter, and the southern one about 5 feet more. Many of the stones have fallen, but fortunately the greater number of these have escaped the hand of the vandal, which is rather to be wondered at seeing that there is a newtake wall close by. I first examined these circles in 1878, when the northern one consisted of 16 stones, of which 9 were erect, but there were indications of others over which the turf had grown. In the southern circle I counted 27 stones, of which only 7 were standing. The average height of these is about 4 feet. They are rather different in appearance from the stones that usually compose the circles on the moor, being slabs approaching a rectangular form. The circles are situated on the slope of Siddaford Tor, a pile presenting nothing of importance in itself, but commanding a most extensive view, and being a prominent land mark throughout a great part of the moorland region. It attains an elevation of 1,764 feet, and one of its rocks, a thin flattish mass, could once be made to rock, or log, with ease. It is a pity the Druidophiles were unaware of this. What a scene they might have drawn of the arch druid hurrying up from Wistman's Wood with a big bunch of mistletoe, while the other druids gathered in the "sacred" circles, and the verdant laymen waited by the logan with a beautiful childlike trust.

(About 1 m. from Siddaford Tor is a tumulus known as Quintin's Man. The name points to the former existence there of a menhir, but no such object is now to be seen. To reach it the visitor may follow the wall running north-westward from near the tor, and will cross the North Teign about midway. The tumulus is only a little over 200 yards from the wall. The return may be either by way of Siddaford or the visitor may strike E.N.E. to Teignhead Farmhouse, 1 m., crossing the tributaries known as Little Verracombe and Great Varracombe on the way. Near the latter was situated the dwelling known as Mandles, mentioned previously (Ex. 19). From Teignhead Farm the homeward route given in Ex. 19 may be followed).

(From Post Bridge to the Grey Wethers see Ex. 45).

From Siddaford Tor we shall make our way over Long Ridge, our course being N.E. In about 2 m. we shall reach the westerly arm of the tributary flowing through Longstone Bottom, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on shall reach the Longstone itself. We may now either follow the stone rows, and so retrace our steps to Batworthy Corner and thence return to the moor gate at Brimstone Down, or we may reach Teigncombe Common Lane by way of Kes Tor, which we see above us to the N.E. (Routes from the two are given in S. Ex. 55).

Another route from Siddaford is by way of the North Teign. The visitor will pass through the gate near the Grey Wethers, and descend to the clapper below Teignhead farmhouse (Ex. 19), whence he will pass up the side of the hill, with the river L. Soon leaving the track he will strike N.E. to Stonetor Hill, or Round Hill, as it is also called, 1 m. from the Bridge. This is about 1 m. from Batworthy Corner, the direction being N.E. by E., and the way running over Shovel Down.

Ex. 21.—*Hut Circles near Metheral, Stone Row in Assacombe, Waters Down, King's Oven, Lakeland, Moor Gate.* From and to the moor gate at Yardworthy ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Chagford), 6 m. If the return be to Moor Gate (4 m. from Moreton), the distance is about the same.

Proceeding by the road past Waye and the western flank of Meldon Common (see *Chagford to Metheral*), we enter the moor at Tawton Gate, near Yardworthy, and following the road over Yardworthy Common, shall cross the Metheral Brook, and reach the entrance to the farm of that name. The ancient track to which we have elsewhere referred as running across the forest from Chagford took a southerly line from near this point, and was carried over Hurston Ridge. The stone marking its course, and to which we have referred, may yet be seen near the farm, and is shown on an unpublished map of the forest as King-de-stone. From this the boundary went on to Heath Stone, on which we offer some remarks in the *Tracks Section* (T. 44). This part of Chagford Common is also noticed in S. Ex. 58). On the slope below the farmhouse at Metheral, to the N.W., and not very far from the South Teign, is an object which has been thought by some to be part of a stone row; in fact, it is shown as such on the new Ordnance Maps, or rather, as a stone "avenue." But I altogether fail to see the true characteristics of a row in this object. It consists of two parallel walls, about a dozen feet apart, the stones being set closely together on their edges. These fragments of wall are probably the remains of some ancient enclosures, and are precisely similar in character to some that may be seen in a newtake on the hillside above the Forest Inn, at Hexworthy, and between that hostelry and Down Ridge. But there are, nevertheless, some undoubtedly antiquarian objects near Metheral. In the glen below, and not very far from Thornworthy, is a good example of the miner's blowing-house, with a trough and mould-stone, which we have noticed in S. Ex. 56, and on Lowton Hill near by are some fine specimens of hut circles, one being particularly noticeable. Lowton forms a part of the old Fernworthy settlement (Ex. 20), and takes its name from a pile of rocks, anciently known as Lowton Borough. This pile we shall see in front of us as we make our way along the road past Metheral Farm gate. On reaching the corner of the enclosures we leave the road, and keep straight on towards the rocks. On and around this pile the hut circles will be seen, the striking example to which we have alluded being not far from the summit. This hut is 32 feet in internal diameter, and the stones of which its wall is built are of very large size. Running round the interior of the wall is a low bench of stones, a most unusual feature in these erections. A somewhat similar arrangement may be seen in a hut near the entrance to Erme Pound (Ex. 32), but in that case the building is a small rectangular one, of the kind associated with the tinners, whereas the present example is circular, and of another type.

Striking S.W. we cross the Lowton Brook (R. 10 B. 36 B), above the L. bank of which we shall find more hut circles. We now make

our way up Assacombe Hill, our direction being about S.S.W., and shall soon look down into Assacombe, through which the brook of that name runs northward to the Teign. Our course should bring us near to a ruined farmhouse, sometimes known as Hamlyn's House, or Assacombe House, and to the L. of this, i.e., a little S. of it, is a stone row running down the slope in a direction due W. It is a double row, and starts from a dilapidated circle at the eastern end, and extends for a distance of nearly 75 yards. A few years ago this row was restored, the tall stones at its higher end being set up. One of these may be regarded as a menhir.

Making our way up through the combe we shall gradually leave the little stream on the R., and pursuing a S.E. course shall pass over Assacombe Hill to Water Hill, with Hurston Ridge on our L. Water Hill, or Waters Down, as it is more frequently called—apparently the Waterdown Rugge, of which there is mention in the early part of the sixteenth century—rises behind the Warren House Inn. It is rather amusing to find the summit of this hill described by a writer under the impression that he was giving his readers an account of King' Oven. He tells us that it was "generally regarded as a smelting-house of the 'old men,'" but that he could not "regard it as anything but a cairn pure and simple." This certainly would not matter very much, only it was rather unkind to say that *many* before him had speculated "on the low cairn, the stone-lined trench, and the little pits." We venture to think that very few since the days of the Rev. E. A. Bray have mistaken Water Hill for King's Oven. Near the summit of the hill is a double stone row, extending for a distance of about 153 yards, its direction being S.W. and N.E. At the western end is a dilapidated cairn and a menhir. Here a stone hammer was found, which had been used as a triggering stone for one of the monoliths.

(The neighbourhood of the Warren House Inn, or Newhouse as it is usually called there, is noticed in our account of the *Post Bridge District*. See Part I).

Leaving the despoiled cairn on Waters Down we shall make our way down the slope eastward, and when at a distance of 350 yards from it, and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of the Warren House Inn, shall find ourselves on the site of the ancient blowing-house mentioned in the *Perambulation of 1240* as Furnum Regis, and in the Forest Survey of 1609 as King's Oven. In the scanty remains that now exist it would be impossible to recognize the ruins of a smelting-house, and it is the name alone that enables us to identify the site. Down to about the second half of the eighteenth century it would appear that most of this interesting structure, which in early times was probably the centre of the tin streaming industry in this part of the moor, was standing. Later the work of destruction was completed by the erectors of some modern mine buildings near by, who supplied themselves with stone from the ruins. All that is now to be seen is a low rampart, composed of small stones, forming a circular enclosure rather over 70 yards in diameter, in the centre of which is a roughly rounded stone measuring 3 feet across, and near it a small pile of stones that seem to have had one end worked into a rounded form. These were once taken away from the circle to be used in a mine building near by, but before this was done the source whence they had been obtained became known,

and they were ordered to be taken back.\* On the south side of the circle is a dilapidated rectangular building, but this cannot with safety be identified as part of the ancient smelting-house. Apparently it belongs to a later day than that of the circle. Nothing is known of King's Oven, for the *Perambulators* of 1240 merely mention it, and do not say whether it was then in use. But however this may be we shall hardly be wrong in supposing that its name was derived not from being a furnace connected with tinworks belonging to Henry III., but to a much earlier king, for there cannot be a doubt of the high antiquity of this smelting-place.

From King's Oven we shall bend our steps northward, and shall soon reach the springs of the main branch of the Bovey river, known locally as the Husson, i.e., Hurston, Water, but to which during late years the name of the North Walla Brook has been given as being in accordance with a certain view with regard to the forest boundary line. It is true that the *Perambulators* of 1240 draw the line "in longum Wallebroke" from the north towards King's Oven, but we cannot be sure that the Bovey was intended, and as it is nowhere spoken of as the Walla Brook, it is misleading to fasten that name upon it. More than two hundred years ago the spot where this stream rises was referred to as Bovey Combe Head.† But in support of the contention in question the name North Walla Brook has been placed on the Ordnance Map of Devon (XCIX., N.E.), although on the very next sheet (LXXXIX., S.E.) the same stream is called the River Bovey, which, indeed, it is well known to be. But the theory respecting the forest boundary needed that the upper portion of it in the neighbourhood of King's Oven only should be labelled Walla Brook. Presumably it was deemed necessary to add "North" to the name in order to distinguish the stream from the Walla Brook flowing south

\* This encircling bank was considerably damaged in 1910, sixty-five feet of it being removed by a road contractor. Complaint was made to the local authority by the Bailiff of Dartmoor, acting for the Duchy, and it was requested that the stones should be taken back and replaced as nearly as possible in their original positions. It was pointed out that King's Oven was within the boundary of the forest, and that the stones constituted what was an ancient monument of considerable value. The stones were replaced. It is unfortunate that instructions regarding these remains on Dartmoor are not given to road contractors; stone in abundance is to be found near the roads, and there is no excuse, other than ignorance, for the destruction of prehistoric monuments. Although the Duchy possessions are of the nature of Crown lands, and not subject to the Highway Act, it has always been the policy of the Duchy to adopt the principles of Acts of Parliament as far as possible, and facilities for taking stone from unenclosed lands for the repair of highways have invariably been given to local authorities. With more light the spoliation of our stone remains might be a matter of less frequent occurrence; at present much watchfulness is necessary to their preservation.

† Combe Head, on the northern slope of Hookney Down, 2 m. distant, where another branch of the Bovey rises, has also been called Bovey Combe Head. This, however, seems to have arisen through confusing the name with Cullicombe Head. (Ex. 22).

from King's Oven, and which becomes the forest boundary to the East Dart. But what about the Walla Brook flowing into the Teign at Scorhill? By this rule, we suppose, that stream would be the "North North" Walla Brook. The plan of arbitrarily naming objects on the moor is a delightful one for getting over topographical difficulties.

Keeping above the L. bank of this little stream, on the further side of which is Bush Down, sometimes spoken of as Bush Down Heath, we shall find ourselves at the distance of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. from its source opposite the old workings of the West Vitifer Mine. Soon after passing these we have below us Lakeland Farm, which appears on Owen's plan as Lakelawne,\* and just beyond this, on the slope of the hill, and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. by W. of the house, shall come upon a most curious and interesting object. It is a circular pound 56 paces in diameter, but the wall is totally unlike that usually found in such structures. Instead of being composed of stones laid in courses this is formed of large slabs set on their edges in the ground, and touching each other. On the lower side of this enclosure, and quite close to it, are one or two hut circles. The visitor who finds an interest in the examination of the stone remains on the moor should certainly not fail to visit this curious object.

From this point, if our destination be Chagford, we may either return by striking N.W. across the common to the road near Metheral, under  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., and so make our way home by the road on the side of Meldon to Waye (S. Ex. 56, 57), or we may shorten the distance by turning into a track just above the enclosure and following it through Hurston and Higher Corndon, as in S. Ex. 58, to Meldon Common. A third way is by descending to the Bovey just below the pound, and striking the stream near a ridge of rock on its eastern bank known as Hurston Castle. Crossing it we make our way up the side of the hill by a track running between the enclosures to the common, and following a footpath L., or N.E., direct to Jurston Gate (see R. 4 and end of Ex. 22). If bound for Moreton this will be our course, but instead of striking into the footpath we shall keep due E. on reaching the common, which will bring us to the Chagford road. This we cross, and also the shallow valley through which runs another branch of the Bovey river, on the further side of which we climb up to the Moreton road, which we reach not far from Moor Gate (R. 4).

It is satisfactory to note that although no gate now exists at this spot the name by which it was formerly known is still retained. That this has not been so in every case is unfortunate. In the Court Rolls of the forest we meet with the names of a number of gates, and in several instances the places where these stood cannot now be determined with certainty. It is therefore important that the names of all spots at which gates were once to be found should be preserved when they are known. The fact of the gate being removed ought not to rob the place of its name, for that had reference to the point of entry upon the commons as much as to the actual gate itself. (See *Dictionary of Terms* in Part V).

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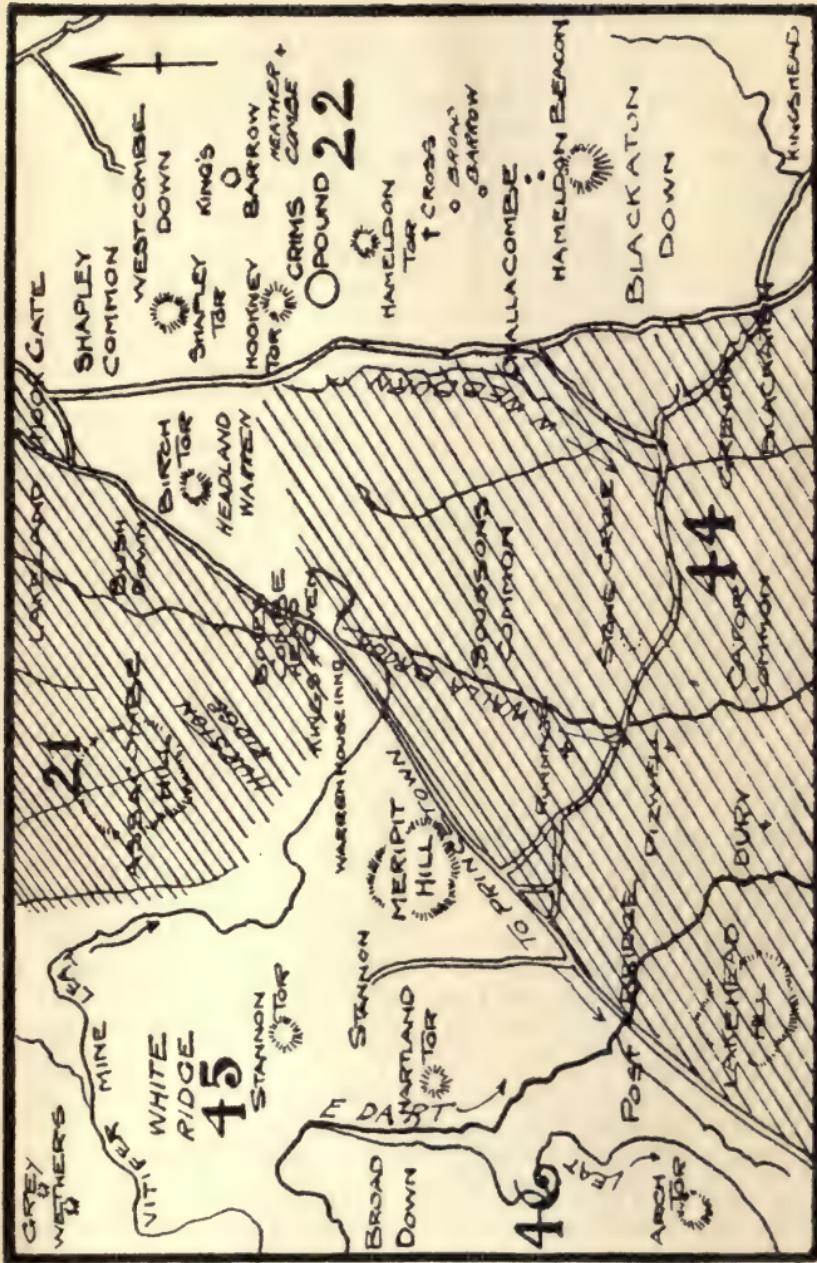
\* The edition of this plan published in 1720 is noticed in the *Tracks Section* in Part I.

Ex. 22.—*Bush Down, Bennet's Cross, Birch Tor, Stone Row at Headland, Headland Warren, Grim's Pound [Hameldon Tor, Hameldon Cross, Berry Pound], Hookney Down, Shapley Common, Green Combe. Chagford, 11½ m. ; Moreton, 14½ m.*

From Chagford the way will lie over the side of Meldon Common to the moor gate beyond Jurston (see *Chagford to Jurston Gate*), and thence along the road to its junction with the Princetown highway; from Moreton the same point will be reached by way of Moor Gate, beyond which it is situated  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Here the road, for some  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. onward, passes between several small groups of hut dwellings, and a reave will also be seen on the L. of it, as well as the remains of others. We make our way onward, with Birch Tor on the L., to Bennet's Cross, which will be seen on the L. of the road,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., after passing the fifth milestone from Moreton. The cross is very rudely sculptured, and is leaning considerably on one side. Its original purpose was probably to mark the track over the moor from Moreton to its western side, on the line of which, as elsewhere observed, the present road was formed, but it also serves as a boundary mark between the parishes of Chagford and North Bovey. It is possible that the parish line determined its precise situation, and that it was set up to serve the double purpose of a guide and a bondmark. It also forms one of the tin bounds of Vitifer, as well as a bound of Headland Warren. [*Crosses*, Chap. XIV.] The letters W. B., which are graven on this cross, are supposed to stand for Warren Bounds, and similar letters may be seen on a line of bondstones running from it. But the cross, which may have been an ancient tin bound, was known as Bennet's Cross over two centuries since, and it is worthy of note that the name of William Benet occurs in the list of jurors who attended a Tinners' Parliament held on Crockern Tor in the 24th of Henry VIII., as a representative of the Stannary of Chagford.

Leaving this time-worn object, which may yet serve something of that higher purpose doubtless intended by those who set it up, we shall strike across the common in a direction E.S.E. to Birch Tor, sometimes called Warren Tor, which is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. The extensive workings of Birch Tor Mine, once known as the old Vitifer Mines, are on our R. as we proceed, and some of these we shall cross on our way, and also pass one of the four small newtakes that are supposed to represent the aces in the suits of cards. These four aces, which are in view from the Warren House Inn (Ex. 45), were dropped by the wicked Jan Reynolds, as related in our account of the surroundings of Widecombe (S. Ex. 87). Among the workings of Birch Tor are some very deep gullies, which are evidently of considerable age. A curious circular shaft, cased with stone in the manner of a well, has given the name of Walled Shaft Gully to one of these artificial ravines. Another shaft of a similar kind is to be seen in Chough Gully,

# "10. CHAGFORD AND POST BRIDGE DISTRICTS"



EXCURSIONS (PART OF). 22, 45, AND PARTS OF 44 AND 46; ALSO  
HAMELDON.

locally Chow, or Chaw, and so named from the rare Cornish bird associated with the spirit of King Arthur. Southward of Birch Tor Mine is the Golden Dagger Mine, briefly noticed in Ex. 44, and the visitor will not fail to be struck with the extensive operations in the search for ore of which the locality has been the scene.

Considerable mining enterprise has been shown in this district by Mr. Moses Bawden, to whom we have already referred in our notice of the White Works, near Princetown (Ex. 3 Part I).

We shall find nothing remarkable on Birch Tor, but the view from it is good. A few hut remains are to be seen on its slope, and on the northern side is a cairn, but it is not of great height. Still keeping a course E.S.E. we shall direct our steps towards an artificial cleft in the ridge before us, and on reaching it shall cross it, and keeping it on our L. make our way up the hill. Here we shall come upon a triple stone row, the existence of which was recorded in 1830, but at that time the whole of the stones composing it were lying on the ground. A few years ago they were re-erected, so that the visitor has now something to look at, but whether he will be able to find any interest in what is only a late nineteenth century erection, formed out of old materials and on an ancient plan, is another matter. No real antiquarian interest can attach to such an erection as this, at the same time we are constrained to admit that re-building is preferable to allowing the stones to lie upon the turf, and this even at the risk of its being said (and it has been said) that on Dartmoor you can be supplied with stone monuments "while you wait." The row extends for about 170 yards, and at its southern end there is a menhir. Some stones near by have been thought to be the remains of other rows, of which, it is considered, there were originally eight, but the evidence of this is not very clear.

Eastward of the ridge on which we stand, which terminates on the S. at Challacombe Down, and on the further side of the valley of the West Webburn, is a wide combe running up between the lofty Hameldon, or Hamel Down, on the R., or S., and Hookney Down, on the L., or N. On one side this combe is overlooked by Hameldon Tor, and on the other by Hookney Tor, and between these piles, neither of which is of striking proportions, is the large circular enclosure known as Grim's Pound, and which is in full view and not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. To this we shall now make our way, and on reaching the valley shall pass through the old workings of Headland Mine, with Headland Warren House on the L. The situation of this lonely dwelling is hardly one that would be deemed suitable for a hostelry, but such, nevertheless, the house once was, rejoicing in the name of the Birch Tor Inn, and in the palmy days of the mines in its vicinity did not lack support.\* The house was at one time kept by John Roberts, a noted character in this part of the moor. In Mrs. Bray's *Tamar and Tavy* there is an extract from Mr. Bray's Journal, of the 27th July, 1831, on which day he visited Newhouse. He speaks of a sign that he was told was once to be seen there on which an invitation was held out to the traveller, and which, he says, he thinks he must himself have seen when a boy. But from enquiries that I made in the neighbourhood nearly forty years ago of old men who had been born and had lived all

\* At Challacombe, 1 m. S., are the ruins of a building also said to have been a beer-house.

their days on the moor, I am of opinion that Mr. Bray was misinformed, and that the sign was not to be seen at Newhouse, but at Headland. It ran thus:—

“ Jan Roberts lives here,  
Sells cider and beer,  
Your hearts for to cheer ;  
And if you want meat  
To make up a treat  
Here be rabbits to eat.”

In this house for many years resided the late tenant of the Warren, James Hannaford, who died in 1899, and was buried at Widecombe, the coffin being borne over the great ridge of Hameldon. He was the son of John Hannaford, who, early in the nineteenth century, lived at Bear Down, and who died in 1868, aged 94; we have referred to him in Ex. 5. Several years ago an adventure befel James Hannaford, when he was crossing the common one dark night from the Warren House Inn to his home at Headland. He approached so near to the edge of one of the old shafts of which we have spoken, that the earth gave way and he fell in. Fortunately he was caught in some woodwork, and contrived to find a resting-place upon it. He could see nothing, but heard the dripping of water below. His faithful collie remained on the brink of the shaft during the whole of the night and the following day, and gave evidence by his piteous whining that he knew his master was in peril. His furious barking at length attracted the attention of a search party, and with every manifestation of delight the trusty animal led them to the shaft down which his master had fallen. James Hannaford was rescued from his perilous position, but exposure to the cold during that long night and day so affected him that he was ever after crippled. But he lived for many years, and never forgot that he owed his life to his faithful dog.

Climbing the further side of the valley we speedily reach the road running from the Princetown highway to Grendon, Blackaton, and Cator (R. 33). Near the spot where we strike this it is carried over a little stream called Grim's Lake, at Firth Bridge. By following up this stream we shall be led directly to the great hut enclosure we saw from the hill.

Grim's Pound is a fine example of a walled hut cluster, but is not more interesting than others on the moor, notably those existing in the valleys of the Avon, Erme, and Yealm (Exs. 29 to 34), and moreover there are some that are larger. But not one possesses so fine a rampart, and it is this feature that renders the pound so striking. It encloses a space of about four acres, the wall measuring over 500 yards in circumference. The stones composing this are very massive, and, as a slight examination will reveal, were laid in courses. It was really a double wall that ran around this area where the huts were grouped, the space between the two probably being filled with earth. Judging from the quantity of stones these walls were carried to a height of about six feet, and upon this there is little doubt turf was piled, the plan of construction, to compare small things with great, being not unlike that of the walls of Babylon. For a long time the entrance to Grim's Pound was a disputed point, the lower break in the wall being thought by some to be the original gateway. But a careful examination proved that this was on the S.E. side, as had been shown on a plan

made in 1829, and the stones being cleared away, and then placed in the positions it was imagined they once occupied, the result was the entrance upon which the visitor looks to-day. At one time a secret passage leading through the wall was talked of. My eye of faith was never piercing enough to allow me to see it. The wall, which is now a mere ring of great stones, is only about four or five feet in height; it appears to have been about eight or ten feet in width, but the fallen blocks being scattered this is now much greater. When in a complete state such a barrier would ensure the safety of cattle against the attacks of wolves or other wild animals, and prove a protection for the settlers in case of a foray. There are the ruins of twenty-four hut dwellings in the pound, some of them, however, being in a very dilapidated condition, and two or three small enclosures, resembling courts, may be seen on the inner side of the wall. The hut in the centre was cleared some years ago in order that the internal arrangements might be seen, and the iron hurdles placed round it to protect it from injury by cattle. [Gems, Chap. VIII.]

It has been suggested that Grim was the name of a viking, who, having forced his way into the heart of the moor, erected this stronghold. The name has also been considered to be a corruption of Graham, or Græme. As there is not the slightest proof that the Scandinavian rovers ever visited Dartmoor, the first suggestion is, to say the least of it, a very improbable one, nor does there appear any reason whatever for the second. By some the name has been traced to Grima, an Anglo-Saxon word for the Evil One, a derivation which at least possesses the merit of being as probable as either of the others. It has been the fashion to regard Grim's Pound as having something very mysterious about it, this, no doubt, arising in great measure from the accounts given of the pound by the older antiquaries, who, not knowing the moor well, imagined it to be almost the only thing of its kind upon it. They entered into the wildest speculations concerning it, regarding it, among other things, as a temple of the Sun, and a seat of judicature. But Grim's Pound is just what other similar enclosures on the moor are, a place of security for cattle, and one in which men could seek safety if the necessity for doing so arose. The fact of the wall being formed of blocks more massive than were usually employed for the purpose merely shows that the site chosen for the pound happened to be strewn with lumps of granite of an extraordinary size. There would, of course, be much difficulty in moving these, but we can well suppose that a large number of men were employed on the task. The Roman soldiers as we know never encamped even for a single night without digging a ditch and throwing up a rampart, and while it is certain that the neolithic men of Dartmoor, probably having no cause for haste, and working with heavy material, exhibited no such expedition, there is no reason for supposing that they were very long in building their huts and enclosures.

[Hameldon is described in the *Bovey Tracey District*, but the visitor will find in the *Shorter Excursions* which follow, directions for reaching Hameldon Cross from Hameldon Tor, and also Berry Pound. In the *Shorter Excursions* instructions are also given for reaching Grim's Pound direct from Chagford and Moreton and from North Bovey.]

Grim's Pound is situated almost entirely in the parish of Manaton, but that part of the wall below Hookney Tor is in the parish of North

Bovey, the little Grim's Lake acting as a boundary between the two. From its head eastward the line is marked by boundary stones, and runs under King's Barrow, our next point. This is rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. by E. of the pound. We may either make our way to it direct, or, if we prefer it, first climb the slope to Hookney Tor, whence we have a good view of Grim's Pound. The tor consists of several small piles of rock, and close to it is a cairn. The range of hills forming the southern part of Dartmoor is distinctly visible, and looking through the opening formed by Hameldon on one hand, and Challacombe Down on the other, we see far away in the distance the peak of Brent Hill rising beyond Buckfastleigh Moor, below which are the plantations of Hayford. In a south-westerly direction South Hisworthy and North Hisworthy are seen, and W. by S. the rocks of White Tor. Siddaford is in full view W. by N.

From Hookney Tor to King's Barrow the distance is  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., the direction being E. by N. The cairn here is not a large one, and as will be seen, has been opened. A little to the W. of it is a kistvaen within a circle of stones. The few rocks near by are known as King Tor. From this point we look down over the northern slope of Hookney Down and across Combe Head to Westcombe Down, on which is situated the East Vitifer Mine. At the head of this combe are some hut circles, one of them being enclosed by a low wall, and presenting a somewhat similar appearance to the Round Pound at Batworthy. This we shall come upon if we make our way over Hookney Down to Shapley Tor, pursuing a W.N.W. course. It is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from King's Barrow, and close to a path running eastward from near Bennet's Cross to the north of Birch Tor, and thence to the mine above mentioned and to Westcombe, from which place there is a road to North Bovey. This seems to be the hut mentioned many years ago by Mr. Ormerod as existing near what he called Bovey Combe Head, but he is not very definite about its situation and may have meant Cullicombe Head.

Having visited Shapley Tor, 1,597 feet, we strike due W. down the slope to the road, in order to examine a few hut circles near it. These will be found on either hand, but it is the huts on its western side, or L. as we proceed northward, that will particularly claim our attention. They are situated in Green Combe, near the head of a small tributary of the Bovey, and the visitor will not fail to be struck with the massive stones of which they are formed. The huge slabs of granite of which one is built gives it quite a different appearance from the ordinary hut dwellings on the moor. When the rambler visits the Yealm, and sees the hut circles there with walls formed of stone and turf ten feet thick, and compares them with the present examples, and with others he may have observed, he will see that the ancient dwellings on Dartmoor, though all of one general plan, differ very materially in certain details.

Following the road northward we speedily arrive at the Princetown highway, where, if our destination be Moreton, we turn R. to Moor Gate, from which point we shall make our way to the town as described in R. 4. If bound for Chagford we cross the road, and also the little valley in front of us, our course being a trifle W. of N., to the road running to that town, which will lead us very shortly to Jurston Gate. We descend the hill, as in R. 4, and turn R. or E. towards Jurston

Farm, soon after passing which we cross the Bovey at Jurston Bridge. A short distance further on is Jurston Cross, where a guide-post will show us that our way lies up the hill N. Keeping Meldon Common L. we soon reach Meldon Hall, beyond which we descend the road between Padley Common and Nattadon to Chagford.

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### Shorter Excursions.

S. Ex. 48.—*Throwleigh and Shilstone, 8½ m.* To Chagford Bridge and up Walland Hill to Murchington. Turn R. at the guide-post to Higher Murchington, then turn L. and follow the road down to the Blackaton Brook. Cross Wonson Mill Bridge (the road L. runs down to Blackaton Bridge and up to Gidleigh) and climb the hill to Providence Place, a short distance beyond which a road turns R. (guide-post), which will bring the visitor to Wonson, a small hamlet named after the manor house near by. (A footpath will be seen on the R. just after crossing the bridge, which may be followed instead of the road. It leads to a lane running by the manor house to the hamlet). Quite near to the New Inn the ancient entrance to Wonson Manor will be seen.

From Wonson the road runs north-westward to Throwleigh, ¾ m. distant. Another route to it is by way of Deave Lane (S. Ex. 46). Instead of turning R. shortly before reaching Wonson, the visitor continues onward to Cross Park Cottage, and there turns R. into the lane mentioned, which leads direct to the village. Near Cross Park Cottage is the hamlet of Forder, where may be seen a good example of the old manner of hanging gates to which we have more than once referred. From Throwleigh the road leading upward to Shilstone has been described in S. Ex. 46, and Throwleigh Common and Shilstone Tor in Ex. 18. On reaching the verge of the moor at Shilstone the visitor will turn southward, and follow the road very nearly to the Forder Brook. Here a track L. is carried down beside it to a lane, by which he will be led past Ash to Forder. Here turn R., and at the fork of the roads, where is a guide post, take the L. branch to Chapple. Beyond this Chapple Brook is crossed, and the road followed southward to Gidleigh.

Instead of turning down by the Forder Brook after leaving Shilstone the rambler may follow the road past Great and Little Ensworthy and Moortown, and reach Gidleigh as described in R. 24. The way from Gidleigh to Chagford is also given in that route.

S. Ex. 49.—*Gidleigh, 7½ m.* The road from Chagford to Gidleigh has been described. Gidleigh is a small village, consisting of a church, the ruins of an ancient castle, a manor house, a few cottages, and a modern dwelling. The church is eminently characteristic of a Dartmoor sanctuary, granite having been employed not only in the edifice itself, but also in its furnishings, the pulpit, lecterns and reredos being of this material. Not far off is the manor house, and quite near to this the remains of the castle, which is of fourteenth century date. That it was larger than has usually been supposed is proved by the discovery of the foundations of ancient walls in its immediate vicinity, but at the same time it is not likely that it was ever a very extensive building.

[*Gems*, Chap. VI.] The remains consist of a square tower, with a lower chamber with steps leading to an upper apartment, in which is a fireplace. At what period the Gidleys came into possession of the manor is not certain, although it was probably very early.

The manor was purchased in 1819 by the Rev. Dr. Whipham, and is now in the possession of his grandson, Mr. A. Guy Whipham, of Gidleigh Park. This park, together with the adjoining property of Scorhill, once formed part of the ancient Gidleigh Chase. It is briefly noticed in S. Ex. 50. [*Gems*, Chap. VI.]

On leaving the castle the visitor will notice an old well by the roadside, just opposite to the manor house gate. [*Dev. Alps*, Chap. IX.] It is covered with granite slabs, and granite steps lead down to it. The way now lies by the manor pound, which has already received mention. Turn L. up the hill, as in Ex. 19. Just after passing the second sharp turning in the road a gateway will be noticed R., in which the primitive method of fixing the bars between the upright granite posts is seen. Looking across the field the visitor has a view of the Rectory. A little further a road runs R. to this, and to Moortown and Ensworthy (Ex. 18). A few steps more and the visitor will reach Creber Pound, and make his way up to the moor by South and North Creber Farms, Ex. 19. On reaching the common turn L. outside the enclosures, and by keeping close to the wall the head of Berry Down Stroll is reached (Ex. 19). The visitor will make his way down this and at the bottom may either re-enter Creber Pound and return to Gidleigh, or take the lane R. and passing Berry Down, follow it down to Highbury Bridge.

Instead of returning through Murchington the visitor will find it a pleasant walk to go by way of Leigh Steps and Leigh Bridge. Just before Murchington is reached there is a cross road, the R. one leading towards the valley of the Teign. Into this the visitor will turn, and it will bring him to a narrow pathway by which he will descend the hill to the steps, where he will cross the river. Another path, running on the R. bank, leads to Leigh Bridge, immediately below which the North and South Teign unite. Between the steps and the bridge a road branches to Gidleigh Park, being carried over the North Teign at Gidleigh Park Bridge. On crossing Leigh Bridge, which is placed in the midst of charming scenery, the rambler ascends the hill, passing near the Puggie, or Puckie, Stone—the name probably being a corruption of Pixy—which overlooks the river L. Very soon he will descend towards Holy Street (pronounced Holly), and at the bend of the road near it will pass an old cross built into the wall. [*Crosses*, Chap. XIII.] The picturesque old mill that formerly stood near Holy Street, and formed a favourite subject with so many artists, has now disappeared. The road here runs by the side of a mill stream to the old woollen factory at the foot of the hill leading to Chagford.

S. Ex. 50.—*Gidleigh Chase and Teigncombe*, 7 m. The first point is Highbury Bridge, whence the rambler will ascend the road towards Gidleigh, but instead of turning R. to the village, will continue straight up the lane to Berry Down. Gidleigh Chase, or that part of it now comprising the park and Scorhill, is situated on the L. as the visitor ascends; there is no doubt that it was formerly of much greater extent, and lay open to the forest. Just before reaching Berry Down

a gate on the L. will enable him to obtain a glimpse of part of it, with a view also of Gidleigh Tor, more generally known as Prinsep's Folly. [Gems, Chap. VI.] On this tor are the remains of a house. This fine hill we shall see to great advantage when we reach the southern side of the river.

Passing Berry Down the visitor will make his way up the stroll, and when about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. from the bottom of it will reach an iron gate on the L. This is an entrance to Scorhill and also a church path (T. 44). The visitor will follow it to Scorhill House, a romantically situated residence, which cannot, however, boast of much antiquity. It formerly belonged to Mr. Rowe, of Berry Down, from whom it was purchased by Mr. Stark, who sold it to its present holder, the Rev. E. B. Layard. Passing the house the visitor will descend to the North Teign which he will cross where that stream forms an island, the channel on each side being spanned by a clam. As he makes his way up the side of the common in an easterly direction, a view of the chase will unfold itself L. Very soon he will reach the road near the Round Pound (Ex. 20), and may either follow this L. to the moor gate or cross it, and proceeding E. enter the short stroll leading to Teigncombe Common Lane, which, being strewn with boulders and more nearly resembling the bed of a stream than a track, has been playfully dubbed Featherbed Lane. Near the gateway at Teigncombe some holed stones similar to the one we observed at Fernworthy may be seen; one of these has a square hole, the other a round one. Here also are the remains of a chapel, one of three formerly existing in the parish. Instead of turning R. to Yeo Bridge and following the road to Chagford past Thorn and Waye, the visitor will make his way down North Hill Lane, where he will notice another holed stone. As he descends he will have a good view of the wild chase, where oaks and hollies clothe the slopes, and also of Gidleigh Tor, which crowns a heather-clad hill rising boldly above the surrounding wood. In about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Teigncombe the rambler will reach Leigh Bridge, when he will have completed the circuit of the chase. From this point the road to Chagford has been described (S. Ex. 49).

S. Ex. 51.—*Scorhill Circle, Holed Stone in the Teign, Batworthy, and Teigncombe, 8 m.* To Berry Down Stroll, as in the preceding excursion. Instead of turning into the path L. to Scorhill House, the visitor will continue to the end of the stroll, and will then turn L. and follow the wall of the enclosure. This he will notice is higher and more carefully built than the ordinary newtake walls, and is also furnished with a coping. Very soon he will reach another entrance to the Scorhill grounds, where is an iron gate similar to the one in the stroll. This, however, is but very little used. A ruined farmhouse will be noticed just within the lower wall. Here the rambler turns R., and on reaching a leat, the same he saw in the stroll, and also at Rue Lake (Ex. 19), will follow it to Scorhill Tor, or as the pile is usually termed, Scorhill Rocks. Thence the leat will become his guide over Scorhill Down to the stone circle described in Ex. 19. (The circle may be reached direct from the head of Berry Down Stroll, S.W. by W., or Scorhill Hill, 1,323 feet, the distance being  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.) From the circle the visitor will make his way down to the North Teign to examine the Holed Stone, and the single stone clapper known as Walla Brook Bridge (Ex. 19). Crossing the river at Teign Clapper he will pass up

the side of Shovel Down, with the enclosures of Batworthy L., to Batworthy Corner. The Shovel Down antiquities, which are near by, are described in Ex. 20. The return may be by way of the road N.E. past the Round Pound to the moor gate at Brimstone Down, or the rambler may strike up over the common E. from the Round Pound to Teigncombe Common Lane, as described in S. Ex. 50.

S. Ex. 52.—*Watern Tor, direct, 11 m.* To Teigncombe, either by way of Yeo Bridge, or Leigh Bridge. From the hamlet the moor may be reached by going up Teigncombe Common Lane (S. Ex. 50), or by the gate at Brimstone Down. The next point is Batworthy Corner, S.W. of the moor end of the lane, and approached by road from the gate (Ex. 20). Watern Tor bears W. by N. from the corner, from which it is distant 2 m., and is seen rising conspicuously from the lofty ridge on which it is placed. But as to make a bee-line towards it would necessitate crossing the Teign at a point where it might not be convenient to do so, it will be best for the rambler to make his way down the side of Shovel Down, with the Batworthy enclosures R., to Teign Clapper (Ex. 19). Having crossed the Teign here he will turn L. to Walla Brook Bridge, where he will cross that stream, and thus find himself in the forks formed by the two. From this point Watern Tor bears a little S. of W., and is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. As the ground is here in places rather swampy it may not be possible to follow a perfectly direct course to the tor, but the rambler will find that it will not be necessary to diverge far from it. The tor is described in Ex. 19.

Watern Tor.

Wild Tor.

Wall of Teignhead.



FROM WALLA BROOK CLAPPER, LOOKING WEST.

S. Ex. 53.—*The Grey Wethers, direct, 13 m.* The road is followed to Metheral, as already described, and thence to Fernworthy, from which place the route is given in Ex. 20. If the return is made the same way the course to be followed from the circles is N.E. for about 1 m., when the rambler will bear R. to Fernworthy.

S. Ex. 54.—*Teignhead Farm, direct, 13 m.* This is described in Ex. 19. There is little difference in the distance between the Teigncombe route, or that by Metheral. If the rambler chooses the latter he will first make his way to the top of the lane at Fernworthy, as in S. Ex. 53; see also Ex. 20. From the circle on Froggymead Hill

the course is a trifle N. of W., and the distance to Teignhead Bridge about 1 m. The return by way of Stonetor Hill and Batworthy Corner to Teigncombe is given at the end of Ex. 20.

S. Ex. 55.—*Kes Tor and the Shovel Down Antiquities*, 6½ m. The first point is Teigncombe, which may be reached by way of Leigh Bridge, or by the road past Waye and Thorn. The latter will take the rambler by Yeo Mill, which being near South Hill probably occupies the same site as one mentioned in a forester's account of the year 1491, in which is an entry of "6d. of new rent of John Wille, of Hille, for having a course of water from the water of Teign within the Forest of Dartmoor across the land of the Forest aforesaid, and venville, to the mill of the said John at Stouthill, within the parish of Chagford, to have and occupy the aforesaid watercourse to the aforesaid John, his heirs, and his assigns, according to the custom of the Forest, as appears on the Court Rolls."

Leaving Yeo Mill the rambler will pass through Teigncombe, and make his way up the lane to the commons, which latter he will reach very near to Kes Tor, 1,433 feet, a rock mass which has been almost constantly in view during his wanderings in the neighbourhood of Chagford. It has been suggested that the tor may have derived its name from the Celtic *kist*, i.e., *chest*, which, indeed, is not improbable, as its square form certainly gives it a resemblance to such an object. Though not of great size Kes Tor is nevertheless striking in appearance, its situation contributing greatly to this. The view from it is very fine, and embraces many of the prominent hills on the eastern side of the moor, as well as a wide extent of cultivated country. Cosdon lifts up his great rounded form towards the N. (*Okehampton District*); the rocks of Wild Tor and Watern Tor (Ex. 19) rise from the dusky ridges westward, and beyond the latter is Newtake, overlooking the morasses of Cranmere. White Horse Hill is seen L. of this, and due S. are Hurston Ridge and Assacombe Hill. Away to the S.E. is Hey Tor, seen to the L. of Hameldon (*Bovey Tracey District*), and L. of this, but much nearer to us, the hill known as East Down, or Easdon (S. Ex. 61), placed at the head of the Widecombe Valley. Turning from the moor the visitor will look down upon Gidleigh Chase and Chagford, and will mark the entrance to the great gorge of Fingle (S. Ex. 66, 67). Far away beyond the Teign is Haldon, and looming indistinctly against the northern sky the hills of Exmoor.

There are several rock basins on Kes Tor, but one is particularly noticeable, being by far the largest on the moor. Previous to 1856 its existence was unknown, as it had been filled with earth, probably being regarded as dangerous to sheep or cattle. In that year it was discovered by Mr. Ormerod, and on its being cleared it was deemed advisable to surround it with an iron rail. Its longer diameter at the top is about 7½ feet; the sides are sloping, the diameter at the bottom being about 2 feet. It is just over 2½ feet in depth.

The Shovel Down stone rows commence to the W.S.W. of the tor, and are less than ½ m. from it. For a description of these see Ex. 20.

On returning from Kes Tor the rambler may either strike due N. for about ¼ m., and then bear R. to the stroll at the head of Teigncombe Common Lane: or N. by W. to the Round Pound, thence following the road R. over Brimstone Down to Teigncombe hamlet.

S. Ex. 56.—*Frenchbere and Thornworthy*,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. To Yeo Bridge by Waye Barton (S. Ex. 55). On crossing this the visitor will turn up the hill L., and in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will reach the farm of Great Frenchbere; he will notice some holed stones built into the wall of the enclosures as he proceeds. Passing the farm he will enter upon the common, with Frenchbere Tor a little in advance of him on the R. Before reaching this he will notice a hut circle. From the tor he will bear southward to Thornworthy, in the walls of the enclosures of which are some more circular holed stones. Some of these may be unfinished millstones, left by those engaged in cutting them in consequence of the stone being found to be unsuitable for the intended purpose, and others were perhaps used by tinners, being similar to those at Riddy Pit, noticed in Ex. 2. Others may be seen in different parts of the moor. Below Thornworthy, in the narrow glen through which the South Teign leaves the wastes through which its earlier course has led it, is the stream-work and blowing-house referred to in Ex. 21. There are in fact two mining buildings, and a good example of a trough and mould-stone. A similar story attaches to these old houses to the one related of Snails' House, in Lough Tor Hole, on the East Dart. (See Ex. 44, Part I; Ex. 30, Part IV; and *Dev. Alps*, Chap. IV). On Thornworthy Down is Thornworthy Tor, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W.N.W. of the farm, and to this the rambler will now make his way. N.E. by N. of it, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, is Middle Tor, which is worth a visit. From Middle Tor it is not far to Kes Tor, from which the routes to Chagford are given in S. Ex. 55.

The return may also be made by way of Frenchbere and Yardworthy; the distance is very little further. From the first-named farm a path leads down to a wooden foot-bridge on the South Teign. This the rambler will follow, and crossing the river will make his way up through Yardworthy to the road. Turning L., or N.E., he may either take the R. or L. branch at the forks. The R. will lead him to the western edge of Meldon Common (he must not turn R. before reaching it), whence he will follow the road to Waye, or cross over the down as in S. Ex. 57. The L. branch will give him a better view of the narrow vale through which the South Teign runs. He will also pass Collihole, the ancient Collerewe; the house is a good example of the moorland homesteads of a former day. Here, as in other old houses in the moorland region, some of which are to be seen in the valley of the Tavy, while others are noticed in our description of the *Post Bridge District*, the shippen, or cowshed, adjoined the living rooms, and the inmates and the cattle all entered at one door. It will be seen that the house stands on a site excavated from the side of the hill, an arrangement observed elsewhere on the moorland borders, and which was doubtless intended for shelter. Collihole now forms part of Hole Farm, which the visitor will pass a little further on. Beyond this he will reach Thorn, where he will turn R. to Waye and Chagford.

S. Ex. 57.—*Meldon, Nattadon, and Week Down*. These elevated commons are situated to the S. of the town of Chagford, the summits of the first and last named being about 1 m. from the church. Nattadon is a little nearer. Meldon is reached from the Square by way of High Street (in which is the well-known hostelry, the Three Crowns, once a house belonging to the Whiddons) and the School, opposite to which is a path leading to Padley Common, a small down lying

at the northern foot of this fine hill. From this point the visitor may make his way direct to the top, 647 feet above the churchyard, or 1,280 feet above sea level, where are some scattered masses of granite, and from which a fine view is commanded. Another way is by passing the School and following the road to Meldon Hall, just before arriving at which it touches the common, or by going still further on to Higher Weddicott, from which the summit is only a short distance.

Nattadon may also be reached by the same road, the visitor turning L. a little short of Meldon Hall; or he may strike into a path at Highfield, which will also bring him to the common. This hill, the north-western slope of which is strewn with granite, attains an elevation of about 1,000 feet. On its eastern edge the path alluded to joins the road that comes up from the town by the Rectory, and at a point very near to where it enters upon Week Down, which common is noticed in S. Ex. 61.

The road on the south-western verge of Meldon Common, between Waye and Tawton Gate near Yardworthy, may be reached by striking over this hill from Padley Common in a south-westerly direction, leaving the summit L. In reversing this the rambler will leave the road at the guide-post, and, of course, strike N.E. This route may be preferred by visitors making their way to or from that part of the moor in the neighbourhood of Metheral.

S. Ex. 58.—*Warren House Inn, direct.* By the moor from C., 11 m.; by road from C., 10 m. From Moreton the route is by road only, 12½ m. By THE MOOR. This route will first take the rambler to the moor at Tawton Gate, which point he may reach by the road branching off at Waye (See *Chagford to Metheral*); or he may join the same road by striking up over Padley Common, as in S. Ex. 57. On entering upon Yardworthy Common, near a large newtake enclosed about seventy years ago, the rambler will turn L., with the wall of Willandhead close on that hand, and make his way due S., with Metheral Brook on his right. In 1240 this stream seems to have been called the Alber, or Aber, but the name is now lost. The perambulators of that date draw the boundary line of the forest in this part of the moor through the midst of the Turbaries of Alberysheved,\* and this can only have reference to the peaty ground near the head of this stream. In 1609 the jury of survey identified it as such, though the spot was then called Turf Hill, and this name it also bore some ninety years later, when, however, it was also known as Black Fen. In the earlier part of the nineteenth century it was referred to as Broadmoor Mires, but it is now generally known as Metheral Bogs. About ½ m. from the point at which the rambler has entered on the moor the wall on the L. is carried toward the S.E., so that in pursuing a southerly course he will gradually leave it. When he has proceeded about ¾ m. from the point where it strikes off he will be abreast of the head of the bogs, which should be ½ m. R. This part of the moor is noticed in R. 25, in Ex. 21, and in T. 44, where also are some remarks on the old track that ran over Hurston Ridge. The course will now be

\*Among other forms in which this name appears are Alberyshede, Abereshevè, and Aberheve.

W. of S., to avoid dropping down in the valley of the Bovey, and in a little over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. the Warren House Inn will be reached.

Hookney  
Tor.

Grims  
Pound.

Hamelton.

Birch Tor.

Challacombe Down.



N.E.

FROM NEAR WARREN HOUSE INN, LOOKING E.

No directions for the return route are needed, as the rambler will merely steer E. of N. from the Inn, changing his course to due N. when about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from it, and on reaching the road between Metheral and Yardworthy will turn R. and make his way to Chagford as in S. Ex. 56, 57.

The Warren House Inn may also be reached by way of the Bovey river. The rambler will proceed for the first 2 m. or so as above (see also *Chagford to Metheral*), but at the turning beyond Tannaford he must strike into the road L., which will lead him to Higher Corndon, whence a lane runs down to the river. This he will follow upwards to Hurston, and passing through the farm, reach the common by a track running between the enclosures. A short distance to the L. of the point at which he emerges upon it is the pound described in Ex. 21. The rambler will now strike southward, with the Bovey, or Hurston Water, in the valley L., to King's Oven,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of his destination.

The first part of the reverse of this route will be found in Ex. 21, where directions are given for reaching the pound above Lakeland just referred to. On leaving this he will strike into the track 200 yards N.W. of it, and will shortly reach Hurston, beyond which he will follow the Bovey downward for nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Here, where it bends R., he will leave it, and pass up the lane to Higher Corndon, at which farm he turns L. and then R. and shortly reaches the S.W. corner of Meldon Common. From this point the route is described in S. Ex. 56, 57.

**BY ROAD.** From Chagford the way lies past the School and up the hill due S. to Meldon Hall, as in S. Ex. 57, and thence to Jurston Gate, as already described (see *Chagford to Moor Gate via Jurston Gate*). This gate, which is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the town, is hung between two masses of rock, on one of which there are three basins. The road is now followed over the common for about 1 m., when it is joined by that coming L. from Moreton. On this hill are the Chagford Golf Links.

From Moreton to Moor Gate q.v. The junction with the road

from Chagford is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. further on, between which two points the road to Challacombe and Cator branches L. (R. 33). From the junction the Princetown road runs in a south-westerly direction, and this is now followed. In the valley on the R. is Lakeland, and the disused West Vitifer Mine (Ex. 21). Further on the road runs by Bush Down, with Bennet's Cross L. (Ex. 22), and shortly afterwards enters the forest, the boundary being marked by a tiny stream—the head waters of the Walla Brook, which flows S. to the East Dart. Just within the boundary is the Warren House Inn, which is noticed in Ex. 45.

(These road routes from Chagford and Moreton form the first part of R. 35).

The return by the road is given in R. 4.

S. Ex. 59.—*Grim's Pound, direct.* From C.,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  m.; from M.,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  m. From Chagford the route to the moor at Jurston Gate, as above, must be followed. About 200 yards beyond the gate the road must be deserted and a southerly course struck. (Bear a little E. of S.) This will take the rambler across the branch of the Bovey rising in Green Combe, and on climbing the slope on the further side of it he will find himself at the point where the road to Challacombe diverges from the Princetown highway. This Challacombe road must be followed as in R. 33, for a distance of nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., when Firth Bridge will be reached, with Grim's Pound in the wide combe L. (Ex. 22). If preferred the rambler may strike over the common L. instead of following the Challacombe road from the highway, and visit Shapley Tor and Hookney Tor *en route*.

From Moreton the visitor may reach the pound either by way of Moor Gate or North Bovey. The latter is the shorter, and the route is sketched in S. Ex. 61 and 62. The road to Moor Gate has already been described, and it is now only necessary to mention a few objects the rambler will pass. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the town, on the R. of the way, is an entrance gate to Lowton, where are two granite pillars. One bears the date 1720, and the other the letters I.S., and on each is an emblazoned shield. It is evident that these once formed one stone, and that the carving was on a panel, part of the moulding of which is still to be seen. At Bughead Cross, just over 1 m. from Moreton, is an old guide-stone bearing the initials of Moreton, Newton, Tavistock, and Chagford. This part of the road was once the haunt of a mysterious individual named John Fall, who seems to have been a highwayman with a penchant for frightening his victims by a kind of Spring-heel Jack performance. In ascending the hill after crossing Worm Hill Bridge, a gate hung in the primitive manner will be observed on the R. At Beetor Cross, where a road comes up R. from Beetor Farm, is another old guide-stone, and a little further on, where the road branches L. to Barramoor Bridge (R. 32, 53), the ancient stone cross, erected in all probability to mark the track across the moor on the line of which the present road runs, will be seen on the hedge L. For many years this cross served as a guide-post in a field near by, but was placed in its present situation, which there is little doubt is very near to its original site, in 1900. [Crosses, Chap. XIV.] This spot is also known as Watching Place, and it is said that a gibbet was once erected here, the criminal whose corpse was hung upon it being the last to be made such an example of in this neighbourhood.

(The road L. runs eastward, to Barramoor Bridge and Ashburton,

turning S. 150 yards on. The other branch goes E. to Hele, where is another stone cross [*Crosses*, Chap. XV.], and passing Bowden Mill is carried over a branch of the Bovey flowing from near Vogwell Down (Ex. 23), and reaches Yard, just beyond which it crosses Bovey Bridge and enters the village of North Bovey).

From Beetor Cross the road to the moor, 1 m. distant, runs south-westerly. Just before it is reached there is a turning across some fields L. leading to a small farm named Liapa. Here the upper portion of a fine granite cross may be seen built into the garden wall [*Crosses*, Chap. XIV.]

On reaching Moor Gate the rambler may desert the Princetown road and strike up over Shapley Common L. to Shapley Tor, noticing some hut circles as he proceeds. The course is at first S.W. by S., with the enclosures L., but in less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. this is changed to S., and then to E. of S. By this route Shapley Tor is about 1 m. from Moor Gate. Hookney Tor is  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of it, and Grim's Pound is immediately below this. The return is given in Ex. 22.

S. Ex. 60.—*Hamelton and Berry Pound*. Add 2 m. to the distances given in S. Ex. 59. From Chagford, Grim's Pound will be the first point, instructions for reaching which are given in S. Ex. 59. Thence the visitor will make his way to Hamelton Tor, 1,737 feet, sometimes called Grim's Tor, which is quite near to the pound and is seen from it S.E. A fine view of the great hut enclosure is obtained from the rocks. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from them, S. by E., is Hamelton Cross. This is noticed in our description of the ridge of Hamelton given in the *Bovey Tracey District*, to which the reader is referred. Rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. by S. of the tor, and about the same distance E.N.E. of the cross, is Berry Pound, also noticed as above. From this enclosure King's Barrow is  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. N.N.W., and Grim's Pound rather more than that distance W.N.W.

From Moreton the route may be by Moor Gate, as in S. Ex. 59, or through North Bovey. For the latter see S. Ex. 61 and 62.

For the return route from the pound see Ex. 22 and S. Ex. 61.

S. Ex. 61.—*North Bovey and East Down*. C., 11½ m.; M., 6½ m. The visitor from Chagford will pass up the hill S. of the church with the rectory grounds L. to Week Down, whence a fine view is presented of the district over which our rambles have extended. Kes Tor stands up well between Nattadon, or Nat Tor Down, as it has sometimes been called, R., and Meldon Hill L. Here, by the roadside, is an old granite cross, having an incised Maltese cross on each face. It is leaning somewhat out of the perpendicular. This cross, together with Shorter Cross, which the visitor will pass a little further on, I have described elsewhere [*Crosses*, Chap. XIII.] Shorter Cross stands near the down on the L. of the lane leading from it to Middlecott, which is the next point. After passing this place, which consists of three farmhouses, avoid taking the first turning L. The lane only leads to some fields, but bend sharp to the L. just after to the guide-post. Here the L. branch must be followed to Thorn, where some holed stones will be noticed. A very short distance beyond the farm a road branches R., or S., which will bring the visitor to a point on the Moreton and Moor Gate road, 1½ m. from the former place, where is a guide-post. This road must

be crossed and the lane, which is a very winding one, be followed, the general direction being S.E. A little way in is a turning to the R.; this must be passed. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. on is a guide-post, and here is the manor pound. The road to the village, which is close by, runs to the R. of this.

From Moreton the road bearing L. near the White Horse Hotel is followed for a few score yards, when the visitor will branch R. (The road going straight on, or S., leads into one shortly to be reached, and runs to Lustleigh). About 1 m. further on this is met at Bovey Cross, or Horse Pit Cross [*Crosses*, Chap. XV.] It comes N. from Sandy Park (S. Ex. 67, 68), and Easton, and goes to Lustleigh by way of Sanduck. Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond Horse Pit Cross is the pound mentioned above.

North Bovey has happily preserved its old restful air. Removed from the high road and the railway it is now almost as ever it was. Although not altogether typical of a Dartmoor border village, there is certainly not one that is more pleasing. The houses, one of which bears the date 1738, surround a playstow, shaded by a grove of ancient oaks. The village cross is an interesting feature. For a time this served the purpose of a footbridge, but was set up in its present situation in 1829 by the Rev. J. P. Jones, who was then curate of the parish. [*Crosses*, Chap. XV.] Mr. Jones was the author of a small book on the scenery and antiquities of Moretonhampstead, and another on the scenery in the neighbourhood of Ashburton, both first published in 1823.

North Bovey Church, which is perpendicular in style, possesses no monuments of importance. The tower has a projecting stair turret.

A new manor house has lately been built in the Week Valley by the Hon. W. F. D. Smith.

Near the village is an interesting object. It is a memorial set up by a loving hand, and stands in a field belonging to Fairbrook, which is reached by crossing the bridge near Broadmead Cottage, and turning into a gateway on the right a short distance up the lane. Beneath a large oak, on a granite block *in situ*, rests a square slab of the same, and on this is placed a small kist, the inner side and ends, as well as the cover-stone, being also of granite, and carefully worked, while the front is of white marble. On this is the following inscription :

FLORA,  
THE MUCH LOVED FRIEND  
AND  
COMPANION OF HER MASTER.  
7 July, 1834.

Surmounting the whole is a small granite obelisk. This little monument, which conveys so much to us, was erected by Captain Britten to the memory of his faithful dog.

North Bovey village is overlooked on the S.W. by East Down, or Easton Down, as it is now usually called, a fine eminence at the N., or upper end of the Widecombe Valley. It is approached by crossing Bovey Bridge and following the road towards Yard for about a furlong, and then turning up a lane L. to the down which is close by. Its length from N. to S. is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., and its breadth about 1 m. On

its southern verge are the farms of Easdon and Barracott, N. of the former being East Down, or Easdon Tor, and N. of the latter, Easdon Hill. The down may also be reached from the village by crossing the Bovey at the lower bridge near Broadmead Cottage, and taking the R. branch of the road at the first forks to Bowda. There are a number of hut circles upon it, and if the visitor goes by way of the lane near Yard he may meet with some of these by steering a S.S.W. course, which will also bring him to the tor crowning the hill, when he will have attained an elevation of 1,440 feet. He will first pass the disused workings of Great Wheal Eleanor, above Hourder Plantation, and continuing his way up the steep ascent, will reach a group of hut circles in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Another group is situated to the S.E. of the tor. Just before reaching the rocks the line of stones marking the boundary between the parishes of North Bovey and Manaton is passed. The view from the summit is good, all the chief hills and tors in the vicinity being in sight. Southward is the Widecombe Valley, Honeybag, and Chinkwell being on the L., and Hameldon R. (*Bovey Tracey District*). To the N.W. is Cosdon, which is seen from every lofty place on the E. side of the moor. East Down is in view from Brent Hill (*Brent and Ivybridge District*), and from the Kingsbridge road above Wrangaton Station (R. 47). Many years ago I used to be amused at hearing the landlord of the hotel at that place point out the hill to visitors as Yes Tor. There is a large block of granite on this pile known as the Whooping Rock, and so called according to a note in Carrington's *Dartmoor* (poem, 1826) from the noise it made in tempestuous weather, presumably occasioned by the wind rushing through some aperture. But it has also been said to have obtained this name from a custom formerly observed in the locality of taking children to the tor when suffering from whooping cough, in order that they might be near the sheep, a belief once existing that those afflicted with that complaint would be cured if left for a time among those animals.

At Easdon Farm some sixteenth and seventeenth century silver coins were found several years ago, together with an old jack-knife, concealed in the house. An account of these was given by the late Mr. William Pengelly in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, Vol. XII. Not far to the west of Easdon is Vogwell, of which there is a very early mention. The name appears in a document found among the Exeter Cathedral archives, dealing with the boundaries of certain lands in this neighbourhood in Saxon times, but in a slightly different form. The boundary line being drawn from Lustleigh to Withecombe Head, is then said to go "from thence to Lime Stream, and so to Voghill Lake; and along that lake to Voghill's Head." That Voghill is the present Vogwell there can be no doubt.

From Easdon Farm the return to North Bovey may be by way of the hill, the course to be steered being N.N.E. On reaching the road below Wheal Eleanor turn R. to Bovey Bridge. Then passing through the village leave it by the road above the New Inn, and pass up to the pound. The guide-post here will show that the R. branch of the road —running N.E.—must be taken. Soon afterwards the Lustleigh road is crossed at Horse Pit Cross, and in another  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. Moreton will be reached.

The visitor from Chagford will, of course, take the L. branch at the pound, and in  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. will cross the Moreton and Moor Gate road.

## Shorter Excursions from North Bovey.

He will then turn L. to Thorn, thence following the road to Middlecott and Week Down. (The guide-post  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond Thorn will show that he has to take the road running W. and then N.W.) From Week Down the road leads down the hill direct to the town.

[If preferred the return from Easdon to Chagford may be by the way of Beotor Cross. The road running N.W. from the farm is followed for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Barramoor Bridge (R. 53). Between these points a road branches R. to Langdon, after which there is a cross road, and then another road R. to Gratnar; avoid turning into either. N. of the bridge there is another turning R. where a road runs to Hele; this must be passed also. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on is a guide-post, where the road to Watching Place, or Beotor Cross, turns L. At the cross turn sharp R., or N., and then almost immediately L., and passing Beotor Farm follow the road to Beotor Bridge, where the Bovey is crossed, and thence N. to the guide-post near Stiniel. Leave this farm L., and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on turn L. to Lower Weddicott. Just beyond this is Higher Weddicott, where the rambler will turn R., or N., and speedily reach Meldon Hall. The way to the town lies straight down the hill, N.]

S. Ex. 62.—*North Bovey to Grim's Pound,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m.* Crossing Bovey Bridge the rambler will make his way to Yard, rather over  $\frac{1}{4}$  m., where he will take the L. branch at the forks reached immediately *after* passing that place.  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. further the road again forks, and here also he will strike into the L. branch, and follow the road to Langdon, which is rather more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. Very soon after that farm is passed the Chagford (R.) and Ashburton (L.) road is reached (R. 32), and here the visitor will turn L., but will only follow it for a few score yards, when he will strike into a path R. running across some enclosures. This leads to Kendon and Heathercombe, to the first of which farms he must make his way. On crossing the branches of the Bovey that flow from near Vogwell Down, close to where they unite, the path runs southward by the stream, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. up a lane branches R. This will lead the rambler to Kendon, which is near by. This farm is one of the ancient vills, and appears four hundred years ago as the "hamelett de Kyndon," when it paid a venville rent of 1d. The lane is continued past this to the moor, which is less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. distant. The rambler will now find himself below King's Barrow, which bears W.S.W., and which has already been noticed. On reaching this he will see the wide combe in which Grim's Pound is situated—the pound itself is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. by W. As the surroundings have been described in Ex. 22, the rambler is referred there for further directions.

If the return from Grim's Pound to North Bovey is to be made over the same road by which the rambler has approached it, he will first direct his steps to King's Barrow, as in Ex. 22, and then strike E.N.E. to the lane leading to Kendon, thence passing by the farm to the stream. This becomes his companion down to the point where it unites with another, when it is crossed, and the path running N.E. followed to the Chagford road. Here turn L., and then immediately R. up the hill to Langdon, on passing which the descent to Yard is commenced, the common being kept close on the R.

Another way of returning is by Heathercombe. Pass up the combe due E. from Grim's Pound, and in 1 m., the enclosures of this

farm will be reached. A little stream which runs close to it will first be struck. On passing Heathercombe the path L., which is carried along by the side of the Bovey branch mentioned above, is followed down the valley due N. to the lane L. leading to Kendon, Vogwell Farm, R., being passed on the way. From this point directions have been given above.

S. Ex. 63.—*North Bovey to Manaton, 4½ m.* Just beyond the bridge near Broadmead Cottage a lane turns L. This must be passed, but at the fork a little way further on, the L. branch must be followed. ½ m. on Higher Luckdon is passed R., and then Lower Luckdon L. (R. 32). Just beyond this a footpath leads across some fields L. Follow this, and on reaching another road, cross it, and strike into one running S.E. This passes through Neardon (*Bovey Tracey District, Short Excursions*), ¼ m. beyond which the rambler turns R. and ascends the hill to the village, nearly ¾ m. distant.

Another way is by going through Langstone. The field path mentioned above must not be chosen, but the road followed to the farm named, where is a guide-post. Turn R., and almost immediately after strike into a path L. This runs across a field to some enclosures on the down N. of Manaton Rocks, and may be followed to the road, which climbs the hill from Neardon. Here turn R. to the village. The return is given in the *Shorter Excursions in the Bovey Tracey District*.

*Cosdon.* Chagford visitors will proceed *via* Shilstone Hill, and Clannaborough Down; directions for reaching Shilstone Tor are given in R. 38 A. *Vide* S. Ex. 47 and the section on Cosdon in the *Okehampton District, Part II.*

### The Banks of the Teign.

Although, as De la Beche has pointed out, the region bounded on the north and east by the Teign, and embracing the parishes of Moreton, Bridford, Christow, and Hennock, is geologically and geographically one with Dartmoor, it has never been looked upon as forming part of it, nor is there any mention of it in connection with the forest or commons of Devon. The true eastern boundary of the moor, south of the Teign, runs through the parishes of Chagford, North Bovey, and Manaton, to Lustleigh, and the district referred to is altogether outside this. But within its confines are a number of hills and tors of a character precisely similar to those on Dartmoor itself, and although this large tract does not come within the scope of this book, it may perhaps be well to notice briefly the chief of these. To one part of this district—The Gorge of Fingle and Drewsteignton, which are near Chagford and Moreton—it will be necessary to devote a little more attention. This is therefore described in a series of short excursions.

About 1 m. from Moreton, and approached by the Exeter road, which leaves the town by way of Cross Street, where the old almshouses are situated (this runs eastward from the White Hart Hotel), is Hingston Down, the summit of which, crowned with the granite masses known as Hingston Rocks, attains an elevation of over 1,000 feet. On the eastern side of this down two roads, branching from the Exeter highway, run southward, one of them (the R. in following

that course) leading to Pepperdon Down, and the other to the common on which is situated the fine Blackingstone Rock. Further E. is Laployd Down, adjoining which is Beacon Down, and S. of these the Kennick Reservoir. This is over  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. in length, and communicates with the Tottiford Reservoir, the both forming the collecting basin of the water supply of Torquay. Towards Christow, which is about 2 m. from these fine sheets of water, are Clampitt Down, Kiln Down, and Inn Down, and S. of these, and between Christow and Hennock, are Waye Down and Barton Down. North-west of the village of Christow, the church of which formerly belonged to the great Abbey of Bec, in Normandy, and afterwards to Tavistock Abbey, is Bridford, anciently Bridgeford, proverbial for its remote situation, and between these two places is a pile known as Skat Tor, 948 feet, more frequently referred to as Skatter Rock. This is finely situated on the summit of Christow Common, and commands a charming view of that part of the valley of the Teign a short distance below Dunsford Bridge. About 1 m. N. of Bridford, and on a hill that sweeps abruptly down to the Teign, is Hel Tor, whence the climber to its breezy summit looks over a wide extent of East Devon, the panorama being as beautiful as it is varied. Blackingstone Rock, or Blackystone, as it is always called, is rather more than 1 m. W. by S. of Hel Tor, and about the same distance E. of Hingston Rocks. Being well placed, and having an elevation of considerably over 1,000 feet, this pile forms another point from which a magnificent view is to be obtained. Like Hel Tor, it is seen for many miles round, but according to tradition there was a time when these tors were not to be seen at all. This tells us that on the hills on which they are placed King Arthur and the Evil One once took their stand and threw quoits at each other, an encounter in which the latter was defeated. As the quoits fell they became changed into rocks, and thus the masses that we now look upon were formed. Not far from Blackingstone is a pile of rocks bearing the name of the Druids' Altar. The reader will expect to find this, for he knows by this time that the Druids were ubiquitous. These tors are called by Risdon Blackstone and Whitstone. The present name of the latter has no connection with the British king's adversary, this simply implying height.

Further south on this high land between the Wray and the Teign are other rock piles. The chief among these are referred to in our account of the *Bovey Tracey District*.

The rambler will find the walk from Moreton to Dunsford Bridge a very charming one; the road runs to the N. of the tors just noticed. In descending towards the bridge, Woodhill, an outlying boulder-strewn eminence, is passed on the R. A lane leads from the village of Dunsford to Clifford Bridge, whence the way to Moreton is described in S. Ex. 64.

S. Ex. 64.—*Mardon Down, Clifford Bridge, and Wooston Castle.* (From Moreton). 7½ m. Following the road on the north side of the church we take the L. branch at the forks, and climb the hill to Mardon Down, about 1 m. from the town. Here we have a fine view of the eastern frontier of Dartmoor, Hey Tor rising very conspicuously to the S. On Mardon are some antiquarian remains, but they have been despoiled. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on the R. soon after entering on the down the

visitor will find some vestiges of a cairn known as the Giant's Grave, 1,170 feet, and a little to the north of this part of a stone circle, either a hut dwelling or ring of stones surrounding a cairn.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of this is a stone pillar, six feet high, which bears the name of the Headless Cross, but whether it ever was a cross is doubtful. It has also been called the Maximajor Stone. Passing onward the rambler will descend the hill to Clifford Bridge, placed in the midst of delightful scenery at the lower, or eastern, end of the Gorge of Fingle.

[The rambler who may have reached Clifford Bridge from Dunsford, or from Fingle Bridge, on his way to Moreton, will follow the main road up the hill S. to Mardon Down, along the verge of which he will be led. The common is on the L. At the cross road where he leaves it he will keep straight on, and descend to the town, 1 m. distant.]

At the southern end of Clifford Bridge a very steep road branches from the one leading to Mardon Down, towards the W. Climbing this long ascent the rambler will, in about 1 m., reach a point where it forks, and here he takes the R. branch to the down on which is situated Wooston Castle, one of the ancient hill camps guarding the eastern frontier of the moorland region. [Others will presently be noticed, besides which there are also camps near Lustleigh and Ashburton (*Vide those Districts*)]. Wooston is an earthwork approaching an oval form, and is situated on a steep declivity commanding the romantic Teign Gorge. Below it are cliffs, partly hidden by trees, and above it the bare down. This rises many hundred feet, and as it would here be exposed to the assaults of an enemy, supposing the latter to have forced their way to the higher ground, it was strongly fortified on this side. Here the rampart is thirty feet in height, and is protected by a deep ditch; the other parts of it are unprovided with this additional means of security, the nature of the ground rendering such unnecessary. Some distance above this is a second ditch, and also a rampart and other outworks. The chief purpose of this fort seems to have been to guard the pass, through which an enemy might be expected to approach. The high ground behind the entrenchments would be inaccessible to him unless he could succeed in fighting his way to it.

The road by which we have approached the down from Clifford Bridge runs on by Cranbrook Castle, and through Uppacott to Easton and Chagford (S. Ex. 66), and this must be followed if the last-named place be our destination. If, however, we are returning to Moreton we leave this road immediately above the fort and strike into another running up the hill due S. This will take us past Wooston Farm to Mardon Down. Some distance to the R. is Willingstone Rock, 1,078 feet, to which a road leads soon after the farm is passed. From Mardon we retrace our steps over the road by which we left the town.

[Wooston Castle is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Moreton. On reaching Mardon Down from the town, *ante*, the L. branch of the road must be followed. This will lead the visitor past Wooston Farm, R., and straight down to the fort. From Chagford the way lies past Cranbrook Down. S. Ex. 66.]

S. Ex. 65.—*The Teign Gorge below Fingle Bridge.* (From Moreton). 10 m. To Clifford Bridge as in the preceding excursion. Here an angler's path will be seen running W. through the wood on the S. bank of the Teign, and this may be followed to Fingle Bridge, about

3 m. up stream. The rambler will pass below Wooston Castle, and will obtain some good views of the gorge, particularly when the fine hill of Prestonbury comes in sight. This hill, and Fingle Bridge, together with the return route to Moreton, are described in the next excursion.

S. Ex. 66.—*Cranbrook Castle, Fingle Bridge, and Prestonbury.*  
*M., 8½ m.; C., 10½ m.* The first point will be Uppacott Down, and this is reached from Moreton by leaving the town by the Chagford road, and shortly turning R., and then almost immediately taking the L. branch at the forks. This will bring the rambler to Howton, where is an open space with a seat, and two roads branching R. (The one bearing L. leads to Lynscott and Uppacott. At Lynscott is an old cross, discovered a few years ago acting as a gate-post, but now placed under a tree on a turf space in the lane. [Crosses, Chap. XIV.] It probably once marked a pack-horse track running from Lynscott over the side of Butterdon Hill, 1,154 feet, to Fingle Bridge). At Howton the second road R. is followed for 1¼ m., where the road coming L. from Uppacott will be reached, the point being marked by a guide-post, and here the visitor turns R. (Care must be taken not to branch R. into the lane ½ m. from Howton). ¼ m. from the guide-post is another, where a turning L. leads directly to that part of Uppacott Down usually known as Cranbrook Down, on the summit of which is the fine hill fort called Cranbrook Castle.

This ancient encampment is reached from Chagford by following the Moreton road to Easton, 1½ m., and then keeping straight on past the entrance to Whiddon Park, L., up the steep Uppacott Hill. About 1 m. from Easton is Uppacott, where a road turns R. to Lynscott, and ½ m. above this is the guide-post where the road comes R. from Howton and Moreton. ¼ m. further on is another guide-post, where a turning L. leads to Cranbrook Down.

[For Wooston Castle the visitor must keep straight on E. from the second guide-post, leaving Butterdon Down and Willingstone Rock R. 1½ m. from the guide-post is Wooston Down, on which the fort is situated. This is on the L.; the road R. goes up by Wooston Farm to Mardon Down and Moreton.]

Cranbrook Castle occupies a commanding position 700 feet above the Teign, its height above sea level being over 1,100 feet (a survey mark gives 1,104). It is an irregular encampment approaching a circular form, and is surrounded by a rampart of stone and turf. On the S. this rampart is over 20 feet in height on the inner side, while the outer slope is more than 40 feet, and here it is also protected by two ditches. On the W. there is a single ditch, but none on the N. and E., where the ground drops considerably, particularly on the N., where the vallum is on the brow of the precipitous scarp that rises from the Teign. The space enclosed is stated by Lysons in the Devonshire volume of the *Magna Britannia*, 1822, to be about six or seven acres in extent; Mr. W. T. P. Shortt, who published in 1841 an essay on some remains in Devon, describes it as being about seven acres.

The view from Cranbrook is exceedingly fine. Cosdon uplifts his huge form beyond the pleasant fields of Gidleigh and Throwleigh, and stretching away from the great hill a long sweep of dusky moorland forms the western horizon, to sink down to the farm lands where the

twin rocks of Hey Tor rise sharply against the sky. Eastward the beholder looks across the gorge to Prestonbury, and upon a wide extent of cultivated country, where red earth, and green meadows and woods, present a happy contrast to the dun hills of Dartmoor.

The road over the down near this ancient fort, formed on the line of an old pack-horse track, descends by a series of zig-zags to Fingle Bridge, in the deep ravine below. On the R. as the rambler descends he will notice at a point where a path diverges, an upright slab with an incised cross measuring 14 inches by 10 inches. [*Crosses, Chap. XIII.*] At the angles of the zig-zags very fine views of the gorge are obtained, that presented from one of these points being particularly fine, when the rambler looks up the valley and sees the folding hills that rise steeply from the banks of the hidden river, in places clothed with oak coppice, and in others showing only bold, bare scarpes.

Fingle Bridge is a narrow structure of three arches, furnished with buttresses, and with recesses into which the wayfarer might turn when meeting pack-horses carrying their burdens on crooks. Below it, on the R. bank, is an old mill, and from here the angler's path before spoken of (S. Ex. 65) runs down to Clifford Bridge. Above the L. bank towers the great hill of Prestonbury, covered with heather, and crowned with its huge camp. The visitor will here find himself in the midst of some of the most charming and romantic scenery in Devon. The Gorge of Fingle is the finest thing of its kind in the Westcountry. [*Gems, Chap. VII.*]

Crossing the bridge the rambler will follow the road up through the defile, with Drewston Wood L. and Prestonbury R., to the top of the hill, where another road comes R. from Clifford Bridge and runs L. to Drewsteignton village. Here he will turn R. and enter upon a path leading to the summit of the camp-crowned height, which, though many hundred feet above the river, is yet of much less elevation than Cranbrook. That he will be more struck with the magnificent view of the gorge which he obtains from this point of vantage than with the fort itself is certain, but when, after having looked upon the folding hills, and into the depths of the narrow valley, he turns his attention to the ruins he will not fail to notice how skilfully this elevated spot was defended. The early builders of this fort took full advantage of what Nature had done for them, but there yet remained much for their hands to do. They accomplished it, and in the days when the only long distance weapons were the bow and the sling, the place must have been impregnable. The fort, which is of an oblong shape, is said, with its outworks, to cover an area of about twenty-five acres. Descending once more to the bridge, we shall climb the zig-zags through the wood to Cranbrook Down, though the visitor whose destination is Moreton may perhaps choose the way by Fingle Mill, following the angler's path on the R. bank of the Teign down to Clifford Bridge, where he will turn R. into the road leading over Mardon Down to the town (S. Ex. 64). This way will increase the distance by 3 miles.

From Cranbrook Down the road E. of the camp must be followed to the guide-post, where the rambler will turn R.  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. on is another guide-post, and here, if bound for Moreton, he will branch L., or S.E., to Howton,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from this point, and thence keep straight on till he joins the road from Chagford, where he turns L. to the town,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. distant. For Chagford the visitor instead of turning L. at the second

guide-post, will descend the hill to Easton, passing Uppacott and the entrance to Whiddon Park on the way. Thence straight on, S.W.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m.

(The road to Drewsteignton, it has already been stated, turns L., or W., at the top of the defile between Prestonbury and Drewston Wood, N. of Fingle Bridge, the distance to the village from this point being not much over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. To reach Sandy Park Bridge from Fingle the rambler may either find his way by the L. bank of the Teign upward to the logan under Hunts Tor (S. Ex. 67), and then climb up to the path near Combe; or he may strike into this same path at Fingle and follow it along the side of Piddledown Common).

S. Ex. 67.—*Fingle Bridge by way of Piddledown Common.* (From Chagford).  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. Leaving the town by the Moreton road the visitor will take the L. branch at the fork,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Moor Park Hotel, and descend the hill to Rushford Bridge, where the Teign is crossed. Just beyond is Rushford Mill, one approach to which is by a ford and stepping-stones, and here a path is carried down the L. bank of the river. This is followed for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the Moreton and Okehampton road at Dogamarsh Bridge, or as it is often called, Sandy Park Bridge, from its proximity to the hamlet of that name (L.). The road is crossed, and the path still followed. This now gradually leaves the river, which a little further down enters Fingle Gorge. Passing Combe Vale, through which a streamlet runs, the rambler will reach Hunts Tor, where the scene is particularly wild. The great mass looks down upon the Teign, which here rushes impetuously over its boulder-strewn bed, to hide itself in the depths of the narrow ravine, where the folding hills rise, bare in places and in others show a covering of heather or coppice. Opposite to the tor is Whiddon Wood, as this part of the park is called, where sturdy oaks grow on the steep amid a wilderness of rocks. From this point the path runs onward over the side of Piddle-down Common to Fingle Bridge, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. down, Sharp Tor being passed on the way. Should the rambler prefer to make the river his companion, by finding a passage through the bottom of the gorge, he may either follow it from Dogamarsh Bridge, or descend to it on reaching the little vale of Combe. By doing this he will pass close to the logan, a great rock in its bed under Hunts Tor, which, having been noticed by Polwhele, who was imbued with Druidic ideas, was for long looked upon as an object once connected with mysterious rites. In 1797 he was able to move it easily; it still oscillates, but has lost much of its former "logging" power. This route by the river, which is not of the easiest description, will lead the rambler under Sharp Tor. The scenery all the way down is exceedingly fine, and from no point is Prestonbury seen to such advantage as from the bottom of this romantic gorge. The return from Fingle Bridge is given in S. Ex. 66. (The little stream falling into the Teign above Dogamarsh Bridge is known as White Water; very near to it is Dogamarsh Wood).

S. Ex. 68.—*Drewsteignton.* (From Chagford). 8 m. (If the return is by way of the dolmen the distance will be about 1 m. more). The first point is Dogamarsh Bridge, as in S. Ex. 67. This bridge, which was built about 1816, replaces one which an old drawing shows to have consisted of three arches, as stated by Polwhele. It was situated a little further up the stream than the present structure.

Here the rambler may either make his way by the Combe path (S. Ex. 67), or he may turn L. to Sandy Park and follow the road. In the former case he will, on reaching Combe Vale, turn up the path L. by Combe Farm, in one of the fields of which is a heap of rocks called the Pixies' Parlour, where a labourer, so a story says, aided by the darkness, once caught, as he thought, one of that elfin race; but his prize turned out to be a tame rabbit belonging to his master's little son. Above Combe Farm the rambler passes Hundred Acre Plantation, R., and soon reaches the road, where he will turn R. to Drewsteignton,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. If he chooses the road he will branch R. at the inn at Sandy Park, and in about 1 m. will arrive at the point where the path comes up R. from Combe.

The village of Drewsteignton is placed on high ground, and some fine views are obtained from several points near it, especially E. of the church. This, which has a Perpendicular tower and nave with a modern chancel, stands at the end of the village street. In a charming little book by Mr. E. Tozer, who wrote under the pen-name of "Tickler," published in 1869, the ringers' rules which hang in the belfry are given.

The name of the parish is in part derived from its former possessors, though when antiquaries believed that such things as tolmens, logans, and rock basins formed part of the paraphernalia of Druidism they gave the name quite another meaning. They gravely told us that it meant the Druids' town on the Teign.\* But at a very early period it belonged to Drogo, or Dru, the second son of Walter de Ponz, and the grandson of Richard, Duke of Normandy. Walter de Ponz, who was Earl of Arques and Thoulouse, had three sons, of whom Dru was the second, and from him the family of Drew of Devonshire are descended. At the time of the Domesday Survey he had seventy-three manors in the county. The name is variously spelt in parish records, Dru, Drue, Drewe, and Drew. Drewsteignton is simply Drew's Teign town, and its connection with the Druids a dream of the dry-as-dusts of other days. In Domesday the manor appears as Teintona, and thus, as Sir William Pole observes, the place "both gave and tooke name of the possessor thereof."†

To return direct to Chagford the visitor will follow the western road, and branch L. at the fork, to Sandy Park. Here he will not cross the bridge, but strike into the river side path, which will bring him to Rushford Mill and the bridge of that name. Crossing this he will pass up the hill to the town.

[*The Spinsters' Rock.* This dolmen is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Chagford. From Drewsteignton the western road is followed as above, but at the forks the R. branch must be taken. For the next  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. turn neither R. nor L. Then Stone Cross is reached just beyond Stone Farm, which lies L. The road goes on to Whiddon Down,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., but the

\* Stanton Drew, a few miles south of Bristol, where are some striking stone circles, has also been claimed as a Druids' town—a Druids' stone town—and probably with as much reason as Drewsteignton has been so regarded.

† *Collections towards a Description of the County of Devon.* By Sir William Pole, of Colcombe and Shute, 1791. Sir William died in 1635.

visitor will strike into the lane L. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on, and near the entrance to Shilston Farm, the dolmen will be seen in a field L. (S. Ex. 69.)]

S. Ex. 69.—*The Spinsters' Rock and Bradford Pool.* (From Chagford). 6 m. The way lies first to Chagford Bridge and up Walland Hill, but instead of turning L. to Murchington the visitor will keep straight on to Sands Gate, where he reaches the road coming up R. from Sandy Park and running on to Whiddon Down and Okehampton. There are several branch lanes between Walland Hill and this point, but if it be remembered that the road runs nearly N. there will be no danger of turning into these. Cross the road at Sands Gate and enter the lane. The dolmen, which stands on Shilston Farm, will be seen R. less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on.

With the exception of that within the gate at Dunnabridge Pound, (Ex. 42), which some will perhaps be disinclined to regard as a dolmen, this Drewsteignton example is the only one in the Dartmoor country, or, indeed, in Devon, that is not found in a ruined condition. And even this is a restoration. In January, 1862, it fell, and was re-erected during the same year, the work being completed in the November following. The expense of this was borne by the late Mrs. Bragg, of Furlong, the owner of Shilston, and it was superintended by the rector, the Rev. William Ponsford. John Ball, a carpenter, and William Stone, a builder, both of Chagford, carried out the work, an account of which is given in a paper contributed by Mr. G. W. Ormerod to the *Journal of the Royal Archæological Institute*, in 1872. It is rather humiliating to reflect that what could only be accomplished by the men of the nineteenth century with an expenditure of much labour and time, was in the "dim old days" effected by three women one morning before breakfast. According to the legend this monument was raised by three spinsters, not necessarily unmarried women, but spinners of yarn—a calling which the original narrator of the story also appears to have followed. Being on their way homeward from the yarn-jobber, and seeing the great stones lying on the ground, they diverted themselves with building the dolmen. The legend is first related by William Chapple, in 1779, who says that the monument was then known as the Spinsters' Rock.\* But he derived the name from some Celtic words having much the same sound, and which he says mean an open observatory, or star-gazing place. Whether this throws any light upon the matter—other than moonshine—I am not prepared to say, but it is only right to mention that this belief that our ancient stone monuments had some astronomical signification, has lately again engaged the attention of antiquaries. Polwhele refers to another story connected with the dolmen,† and probably an older one of which the foregoing is a variant. He quotes a writer as stating that the monument was said to have been erected by three young men who came down with their father from the hills of Dartmoor, whence they brought the stones, and this it was thought had reference to the old man and his sons who descended from the mountain on which the ark had rested.

\* Description and Exegesis of the Drewsteignton Cromlech. Exeter, 1779. The author died before the work was completed.

† History of Devonshire. Vol. II. 1793-1806. (3 vols.)

The impost, or capstone, of the dolmen is 15 feet in length, and its under surface is about six feet from the ground. Its weight is computed to be rather over 16 tons.

According to several accounts there were formerly some stone rows and circles near the dolmen. These were noticed in 1789 by the Rev. John Swete, of Oxton House, who in that year visited the spot while on a tour into North Devon, and four years afterwards were described by Polwhele. They were also mapped by the Rev. W. Grey, of Exeter, in 1838. Some twenty years later search was made for these remains by Mr. G. W. Ormerod, but the stones had then disappeared.

On the further side of the lane that runs N. of the dolmen is Bradford Pool, said to be about three acres in extent. It is of a rectangular shape, and about 180 yards long by 40 yards wide, and is really an old mining excavation. The trees by which it is surrounded do much to conceal its artificial character, and render it a truly romantic spot. When visited by Mr. Swete the pool had been drained, but the accumulation of water in it seems to have taken place soon after that time, and was occasioned by the stopping of an adit which runs under Shilston Farm. The existence of this adit probably gave rise to the belief once prevalent in the locality that a subterranean passage ran from the pool to the Teign under Hunts Tor. Similarly the story of a secret passage formerly said to lead from Gidleigh Castle to the Teign at Gidleigh Park Bridge, seems to have been suggested by some old mining excavations near the last-named spot.

The return from the dolmen will be by way of the lane running southward to Sands Gate, where the road coming R. from Whiddon down and going L. to Sandy Park is crossed. Keep straight on, the course being nearly S., to Walland Hill, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., at the bottom of which is Chagford Bridge.

S. Ex. 70.—*Rushford Wood*. (From Chagford).  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. The way lies over Rushford Bridge as in S. Ex. 67, but instead of striking into the river path at the mill, the road must be followed to Rushford Barton, once the seat of the Hoares, a family which settled here in the reign of Richard II.\* The visitor now turns L. to the wood, through which he may pass up to Rushford Tower. No antiquarian interest attaches to this; in fact, the building is quite modern, but a fine view is obtained from it, and it also forms an interesting feature in the picture seen from Chagford. North of it a strip of turf was formerly known as the Bowling Green, and a basin in one of the rocks with which this was dotted, as the Punch Bowl. (Near Mount Flaggon, on the road to Torhill and Goosaford, is the Rushford Manor Pound, modern).

On returning to Rushford Mill the visitor, instead of crossing the bridge, may turn R. into a path by which he will be led along the left, or north, bank of the Teign to Chagford Bridge, and so make his way to the town.

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\* This interesting old house was unfortunately destroyed by fire in September, 1913, but has since been rebuilt.

## Routes from Chagford and Moreton.

(The road between these two places has already been described. The Route distances do not include the return. The rambler is supposed to be provided with a compass).

R. 31.—To Bovey Tracey, S.E. from Moreton. *Hayne, Wray Barton, Wray Cleave, Kelly, Slade, King's Cross, Woolley, Atway.* From C., 11 m.; M., 6½ m. Reverse, R. 46.

This is a road route, and few directions are needed. From Moreton the way lies by the Railway Station, and down the valley of the Wray, with Wray Cleave L., for 3½ m., where a road runs R. to Lustleigh. The route is then by Kelly and Slade, at each of which points there are guide-posts. At King's Cross, where is a milestone (1 m. from Bovey), the visitor must bear L. to Woolley. At that spot he will also bear L., but take the next turning R.

R. 32.—To Ashburton, S.S.E. from Chagford; S. from Moreton. *Beetor Cross, Barramoor Bridge, Heytree Cross.* (From Moreton: North Bovey, Langstone, Hayne Down). *Swine Down Gate, Hemsworthy Gate, Cold East Cross, Welsthor Cross.* From C., 12½ m.; from M., 11½ m. Reverse, R. 53.

[Objects: S. Ex. 61, Ex. 23 to 26.]

Although this is a road route the greater part of it lies over the moor. The visitor will pass up the hill S., having Nattadon L. and Meldon R., and make his way to Beetor Cross, 2½ m. q.v. Here the road runs L. to Moreton, and R. to Princetown, but he will strike into the one running L. below the cross, i.e., S.E., and follow it for a few score yards when he will turn R., and in about 2½ m. will reach Heytree Cross (Ex. 24). (This 2½ m. of road pursues a S.S.E. direction, and the turnings, all of which the rambler will avoid, are as follow: First L. to Hele; then cross Barramoor Bridge; Second L. to Gratnar; Third, a cross road—L. to North Bovey and R. to Shapley and Westcombe Down; Fourth L. to Langdon Farm and North Bovey; Fifth, L. to Easdon Farm and Manaton; and Sixth, R. to Vogwell, from which turning Heytree Cross is ½ m. distant). A little way beyond this cross road is the farm of Fordgate, and when this is passed the pedestrian will enter upon Cripdon Down, along the western edge of which the road runs for about ½ m. and then skirts Swine Down, leaving it at Swine Down Gate. (R. 25 and Ex. 24). On passing through the gate the rambler will turn southward, having Hound Tor (Ex. 24) on his L. About 1½ m. on a green track across the down L. cuts off an angle of the road, and in this another, marked by a guide-post, branches westward to Widecombe. Soon after the road is regained Hemsworthy Gate is reached, through which lies the way to IIsington and Bovey Tracey (Ex. 25, S. Ex. 82, 90). Leaving this on the L. the rambler will follow the road southward under Rippon Tor, and passing the ruins of Newhouse, on the verge of Blackslade Down R. (Ex. 26), will reach

Cold East Cross,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. Here a road comes up L. from Halshanger, and another runs R. to Widecombe (Ex. 26, R. 5), with a branch to Cockingford (R. 5, 42) and the forest. The rambler will keep to the road he has been following, its course here being about S.W., and in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. will reach Welstor Cross, where he will turn R. into the road leading from Buckland to Ashburton, and then almost immediately turn L. and follow it to his destination. (*Vide Ashburton District*).

From Moreton the road lies through North Bovey (S. Ex. 61), and joins the one just described at Swine Down Gate. Langstone is the first point from North Bovey, about 1 m. S.S.E., Aller and Higher and Lower Luckdon being passed on the way, and here the visitor will turn R. to Langstone Cross,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. At both points there is a guide-post. He will here turn L., and on reaching the forks a little way down, will strike into the R. branch, which will shortly bring him to Hayne Down. Across this his road runs direct to Swine Down Gate,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. S., Bowerman's Nose being passed on the way (Ex. 23).

R. 33.—To Brent and Ivybridge. Brent, S.; Ivybridge, S. by W.; with branch to Cornwood, S.S.W. To BRENT: Jurston Gate, Challacombe, Jordan, Ponsworthy, Pound's Gate, Holne, Cross Furzes, Gigley Bridge. From C., 19 m.; from M., by Moor Gate, 20 m.; a nearer way from M. is through Widecombe (See R. 64). To IVYBRIDGE: Jurston Gate, Warren House Inn, Post Bridge, Dunnabridge Pound, Sherburton Bridge, Hexworthy, Aune Head, Red Lake, by the Erme to Harford. From C.,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  m.; from M., by Moor Gate, 25 m. To CORNWOOD: from Red Lake over Stall Moor, from C., 22 m.; from M., by Moor Gate,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  m. Reverse, R. 64.

[Objects: Exs. 22, 27, 28, Holne Moor Section, and S. Exs. from Brent. If to Ivybridge, Exs. 22, 21, 45, 44, 42, 43, 30, 32; and if to Cornwood add Ex. 33.]

To BRENT. The road to Jurston Gate as already described must first be followed, where the pedestrian will cross the valley, as directed in S. Ex. 59, to the point where the road to Challacombe, Grendon, and Cator leaves the Moreton and Princetown highway. Here the visitor from Moreton will join. This Challacombe road must then be followed, the rambler having Shapley Common on his L., and the upper waters of a branch of the Bovey on his R. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. on the road crosses Grim's Lake at Firth Bridge, Grim's Pound (Ex. 22) lying on the slope L., and Headland Warren House in the valley R. At Challacombe, about 1 m. further down, the road forks. The rambler must take the L. branch, which will bring him to Lower Blackaton, 1 m. (T. 76). Still keeping southward his course for yet another mile will be on the line of R. 26, and will bring him to Dunstone Down, when he will turn R. (The first turning R. leads to Cator; the second R. is a track running down a stroll to Rowden Down; these he must pass). At the point where he will leave the road a track comes down from the N.E. Route 26 runs on over Bittleford Down, but we must now desert it and strike S. by W. down a narrow lane between some enclosures to Jordan Mill, just before reaching which our way is crossed by another lane. Passing the mill the visitor will proceed to the Widecombe and Ponsworthy road,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, where he will turn R. down the hill, and in another  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will reach the last-named village (Ex. 27). Passing through this little place we ascend the hill and keep L. towards Leusdon Church, but bearing R. just before reaching it.

The way lies by Spitchwick Higher Lodge to the hamlet of Pound's Gate, whence the road runs by the Tavistock Inn down the hill, with Leign Tor L. to New Bridge (R. 6 A). Immediately after crossing the bridge a path will be seen R. running through the wood close to the Dart. This will lead the rambler up to some fields, and near to Holne Cot, on passing which he will emerge upon a lane. A few yards L. is a branch into which he will turn, and very speedily reach Holne village. (*Vide S. Ex. 96*). Passing through this to Play Cross the pedestrian turns L., and a few score yards on, when at the top of Langaford Hill, takes the road R. This will lead him to Holy Brook Bridge and Scorriton, just beyond which he will cross Combe Bridge and ascend the long steep lane to Cross Furzes, taking care not to branch L. when nearing the top. At the cross, where is an old guide-stone, a lane comes from Lid Gate, on the moor edge, R., and two run L., one to Buckfast and the other to Buckfastleigh, the latter going over Wallaford Dowr. The rambler will descend the side of the furze-covered space, to a ford on the Dean Burn, and will ascend the track leading up towards the ruined Lambs Down Farm (S. Ex. 101). Before reaching it a footpath will be seen branching L. and running down to a small tributary rivulet, where is a hunting gate, and this must be followed. The path leads to a green track that comes from the moor R., which will be struck by keeping near the wall, R. This track, the direction of which is S.E., the pedestrian will follow over Skerraton Down to a lane in the corner, and entering this will proceed for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to a turning R., which will bring him immediately to Gigley Bridge. From this point the way to Brent is described in S. Ex. 103.

**To Ivybridge.** As in the route to Brent the visitor will first make his way to Jurston Gate, but will not then desert the highway. His road, in fact, will be the same as that described in R. 35 as far as Post Bridge. (This also applies to Moreton visitors). Then, on crossing the East Dart, he will enter the gate L. and follow the green track by Bellaford Tor to Dunnabridge Pound, as described in T. 80 and Ex. 44. On emerging from the newtakes on the Two Bridges and Dartmeet road, he will turn L. for a few score yards, and passing Brownberry, will enter a gate R. and descend to the West Dart, which is spanned by a clam just below where it makes a sharp bend. On crossing this the rambler will find himself on land belonging to Sherburton Farm; a path leads along the hillside to the house. Below, on the L., is the confluence of the Dart and the Swincombe, marked by the plantation known as Sherburton Firs. Having reached the farmhouse the rambler will descend the road to Sherburton Bridge, whence he will pass upward to Gobbet Plain, below which is the delightfully situated forest settlement of Hexworthy.

[*Hexworthy to Ivybridge.* The part of this route that follows forms the reverse of the route from Ivybridge to Hexworthy. *Vide R. 64, and Brent and Ivybridge, and Hexworthy Districts.*]

The first part of the journey from Hexworthy is described in T. 54. This will bring the rambler to Aune Head, from which point he will follow the Avon down for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Heng Lake Gully, keeping on the R. bank. (For a description of the mire at Aune Head and the

upper part of the stream see Ex. 43). The gully, which is on the R. bank of the Avon, will be reached just before the river makes a rather rapid descent. It is covered with granite, and a little tributary runs through it. The visitor will make his way nearly to its head, where on the L. he will find a narrow strip of hard ground leading across Red Lake Mire. By means of this he will be able to reach Green Hill (Ex. 30) without trouble, when he will turn southward, with the mire close to him on the L. This will bring him to Red Lake, near the ford (T. 1), and he may now either follow the brook to the Erme, and crossing that stream pass downward to Green Bottom,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. below the confluence, and so make his way to Harford Bridge, as described in R. 7; or he may cross Red Lake, and strike S. over Brown Heath to Stony Bottom, and thence proceed to Harford village. There is little difference in the length of these routes. In the latter case the visitor, after crossing Stony Bottom (Ex. 32) (which is about 1 m. from the ford over the brook, and runs E. and W., and which should be reached at a point rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. of the Erme), should endeavour to strike the track running out from Harford to Erme Pound (T. 63). This he may do if he gradually approaches the line of bondstones that he will notice on his L., which mark the boundary between Harford and Ugborough Moors, as the two intersect each other about  $\frac{2}{3}$  m. southward of the bottom. At all events the stones will prove a sufficient guide, and by following up the row the rambler will be led to the dip between Three Barrows, L., and Sharp Tor, R., through which the track runs. Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. southward of Sharp Tor it forks, and here the R. branch must be followed. Harford Church,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, may now be seen S.W., and to this the track will lead direct. (See note at end of R. 38).

[*Hexworthy to Brent, by way of Aune Head.* From Heng Lake, ante, the rambler will follow the Avon downward, keeping on the L. bank, until he passes Small Brook, over 4 m., where a bondstone will be seen close to the confluence. He will soon after cross the river, and follow it to Zeal Gate, at Shipley. (See note at end of R. 38). Or he may leave the river below him on the L. after passing Heng Lake Gully, and make his way along the brow of the hill southward to Western Whitaburrow, where he will strike the old tram-road (T. 60, Ex. 30), which he may follow to Shipley as in R. 7.]

To CORNWOOD. If his destination be Cornwood the pedestrian will follow the Ivybridge route as far as Red Lake Ford. He must then trace the stream down to the Erme, which he should cross either near the confluence, or at the ford below Erme Pound, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. lower down. From here a track runs over Stall Moor (T. 66), and this will lead him to Watercombe Waste Gate,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  m. distant. Should the rambler not be able to strike this track at first his best plan will be to follow the Erme downward, keeping high above the right bank after crossing Green Bottom,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. below the fording place, as by so doing he will not fail to notice the long stone row leading to the circle described in Ex. 33. This row here runs N. and S., and is nearly parallel to the track, which is only about 200 yards W. of it. As progress is made the path becomes plainer, but the rambler cannot go wrong if he keeps well to the R. or W. of Stalldon Barrow, the high

hill he sees rising before him. When the track draws near Harrowthorn Plantation and Dendles Wood it is crossed by another coming R. from the direction of Yealm Head. Here the pedestrian will keep L., and about 1 m. further on will reach the moor gate at Watercombe, from which a road leads to Cornwood, not quite 2 m. distant (Ex. 34).

R. 34.—To Plympton and Shaugh, S.W. by S.; with branch to Cornwood, S.S.W. *Jurston Gate, Warren House Inn, Post Bridge, Cherry Brook, Prince Hall Bridge, Peat Cot, Siward's Cross, Plym Steps, Hen Tor, Great Trowlesworthy Tor, Blackabrook Head, Shaugh Moor, Brag Lane End, Niel Gate.* To Plympton,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  m.; to Shaugh, 21 m.; to Cornwood,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. From Moreton,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. more. Reverse, R. 71.

[Objects: Exs. 22, 45, 44, 46, 4, 3, 37, 36. If to Cornwood add 34, 35.]

By Jurston Gate, following the Princetown route, R. 35, to the entrance to the old Powder Mills,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. south-westward of the bridge over the Cherry Brook. Just beyond this the rambler will cross Muddy Lakes Newtake, L., as in R. 27, and follow the directions given there for reaching Tor Royal Newtake by way of Moorlands and Prince Hall. But when he enters that newtake he will steer S.W. by W. across it for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., leaving Royal Hill, 1,333 feet, the highest part of it, on the L. (The rambler must be careful not to bear too much to the L. when nearing the end of this  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m., or he will get among the turf ties, which will hinder his progress). This will bring him to the wall of some enclosures belonging to Tor Royal (Exs. 3, 4), which runs S. and then turns abruptly W. He will follow this to the Devonport Leat, along the bank of which is a path, which will bring him to Peat Cot, a short distance S. From this little settlement the rambler will proceed in a south-westerly direction for rather less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., when he will turn S., and in another  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will reach Siward's Cross (T. 1, Ex. 2, Extension). From this point the way lies over Eylesbarrow and Higher Hart Tor to the Plym, and thence onward to Shavercombe and Hen Tor, and is described in R. 7. The direction is S. by W.

[The rambler bound for Cornwood will branch off at Hen Tor, and follow the directions given in R. 7, his way lying over Shell Top and Pen Beacon.]

If either Plympton or Shaugh be the point to be reached the rambler will not find it necessary to make direct for Hen Tor on leaving Shavercombe Brook; it will be better for him to pass about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. below it, i.e., to the W. of it, and near the ruined buildings known as Hen Tor House (Ex. 37). From this point he will strike S.W. by W., and crossing Hen Tor Brook will pass over Willing's Hill to Great Trowlesworthy Tor, 1 m., close to which is the source of Spanish Lake. Little Trowlesworthy Tor will be seen below it, and further down, Trowlesworthy Warren House (Ex. 37). The course is now about S.W. by W., to the head of Blackabrook,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, the Lee Moor Clay Works Leat being crossed on the way. (There are some foot bridges over it here). Less than another  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., the course being about the same, will bring the rambler to the road from Dousland (R.) to Cornwood (L.).

(R. 13). This he will cross, and strike W. by S. over Shaugh Moor to Brag Lane End, about 1 m. (Ex. 36). The visitor to Shaugh will turn into this as directed in R. 8. For Plympton he will turn L. and follow the road to his destination, leaving the moor at Niel Gate, as described in the same route.

R. 35.—To Princetown, S.W. BY ROAD. *Meldon, Jurston Gate, Bush Down, Bennel's Cross, Warren House Inn, Stats Brook, Meripit Hill, Post Bridge, Gawler Bottom, Bellaford Tor, Powder Mills, Crockern Tor, Two Bridges.* (The road from Moreton runs by Bughead Cross, Worm Hill, Beetor Cross, Moor Gate,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. W. of which it joins the one from Chagford). From C., 12 m.; from M.,  $13\frac{1}{2}$  m. Reverse, R. 4.

[Objects : Exs. 22, 45, 44, 46, 5.]

The portion of this route from Chagford and Moreton to the Warren House Inn is described in S. Ex. 58.

Shortly after leaving the Warren House Inn we cross Stats Brook, whence the road is carried over Meripit Hill to the hamlet of Post Bridge. Crossing the East Dart close to the well-known clapper, it ascends the hill, with Lakehead on the L., and Archerton R. Soon Bellaford Tor is seen rising L., on the R. being Gawler Bottom. We cross the Cherry Brook, and passing the entrance to the Powder Mills  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. further on soon reach Two Bridges. Branch L. to Princetown,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m.

R. 36.—To Tavistock, W.S.W. (A) BY ROAD. *Jurston Gate, Warren House Inn, Post Bridge, Two Bridges, Rundle Stone, Mervale.* From C.,  $18\frac{1}{2}$  m.; from M., 20 m. Reverse, R. 10 A. (B) FROM CHAGFORD BY WAY OF THE MOOR. *Waye Barton, Metheral, Assacombe, White Ridge, East Dart, Broad Down, Row Tor, Devil's Tor, Maiden Hill, White Barrow, Peter Tavy, 19 m.* From Moreton via Chagford, as above,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  m. Reverse, R. 10 B.

[Objects : (A) Exs. 22, 21, 45, 46, 44, 5, 6, 1, 7, 8. (B) 21, 46, 5, 8.]

(A) By road to Two Bridges as in R. 35. Thence the road branching R. is followed to Rundle Stone, 2 m., from which point the road to Tavistock is shown in R. 1.

(B) The first part of this route is described in the notice of the road from Chagford to Metheral, and will take the rambler to the moor by way of Waye Barton and Tawton Gate. On leaving the corner of the enclosures just beyond Metheral the rambler must steer S.W. by W., with Lowton Rocks on his R., and in  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will cross Lowton Brook. Assacombe Brook is about  $\frac{1}{3}$  m. further on. Crossing this, and shortly afterwards the Vitifer Mine Leat, the rambler will pass up the western side of the combe, with a wall on his L. running S.W. by W., and will soon find himself on White Ridge (Ex. 45). He will now steer W. by S., with the crest of the ridge L. and the leat R. for a little over 1 m., when the leat, here bending southward, will be directly in his path. He will cross it and steer W.S.W. for 1 m. to the East Dart, which it is his object to strike at the head of the pass above Sandy Hole. Care must be taken not to bear too much to the R. in passing from the leat to the river. Above the pass (Ex. 45) the Dart can usually be crossed without difficulty.

[If the visitor cares to try to cross the Dart at Sandy Hole he will steer S.W. from the leat, but the safer plan is to aim for the head of the pass. A more direct course than either of these, if the river can be crossed, is to strike S.W. from the point where the wall of the Assacombe enclosures is left, and White Ridge entered upon. 1 m. on is Lade Hill bottom (Ex. 45), through which a small tributary runs down to the Dart. Crossing this, and still steering S.W., the pedestrian will shortly have the river on his L. and the Vitifer Leat on his R. (Ex. 45). Thence he will pass along the foot of Lade Hill, and crossing another small stream, will strike the Dart about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Lade Hill Bottom, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. below the spot where the leat is taken in, and just where the river begins to bend and run towards the north. Here it must be crossed, and the course will then be W.S.W. over Broad Down for  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. to the corner of the wall of Wild Banks Newtake, *vide post.*]

Having reached the R. bank of the East Dart at the higher end of the Sandy Hole pass, and just below Broad Marsh (Ex. 45), the rambler will make his way down through the pass to the hollow nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. below, and there he will leave the river. His way now lies over Broad Down, the course being S.S.W., to the corner of Wild Banks Newtake, which he will reach in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. He will then follow the wall for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W.S.W. to the West Dart, and crossing that river will still take the wall for his guide. This will lead him nearly to Row Tor, whence he will make his way W. by S. to Devil's Tor, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. Close to this small pile is Bear Down Man (Ex. 5). The course is now W.S.W. for 1 m. The Cowsic is first crossed, and then the southern verge of Maiden Hill, the line running a little to the N. of Conies Down Tor. This will bring the pedestrian to the Lich Path (T. 18), which must be followed westward. Immediately after crossing the Prison Leat this ancient way reaches the Walkham at Sandy Ford, and is carried up the western side of the shallow valley through which that river runs towards White Barrow. From this ford the route to Tavistock has already been described (R. 30 B).

R. 37.—To Lydford, W. by S. *Teigncombe, Batworthy Corner, Hew Down, Newtake, Cranmere Pool, Great Kneeset, Amicombe Hill, Rattle Brook, High Down.* C.,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  m.; M., 19 m. Reverse, R. 17.

[Objects: Exs. 20, 19, 12, 11, and in C.R. 12, 5, and in the description of the surroundings of Cranmere in the section dealing with that district.]

This route is composed entirely of C.R. 12, which describes the ground between Chagford and Cranmere, and C.R. 5, which notices that between the Pool and Lydford, and to these the rambler is referred.

R. 38.—To Okehampton, with branches to Sticklepath and Belstone, N.W. by W.

(A) *Road to Shilstone Tor, North end of Raybarrow Pool, Fords on the Taw, Crovener Steps.* From C., 11 m.; M.,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  m. To Sticklepath, from C.,  $7\frac{3}{4}$  m.; M.,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  m. To Belstone, from C., 9 m.; M.,  $13\frac{1}{2}$  m. Reverse, R. 24 A.

(B) *Road to Berry Down, White Moor Stone, Small Brook Foot, Crovener Steps.* Distance about the same. Reverse, R. 24 B.

[Objects: Exs. 19, 18, 17, 16.]

(A) The rambler will first make his way to Gidleigh *via* Murchington. (See *Chagford to Gidleigh*). Thence he will turn up the hill by the little manor pound to the footpath R., which is close by, and follow W.N.W. to Thule. On reaching the lane here turn R. to Moortown, soon after passing which the commons will be reached. The rambler continues to follow the road which skirts them, having Buttern House L. and Great and Little Ensworthy Farms R. Forder Bridge is then crossed, and from this Shilstone Tor is distant  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.

(The rambler bound for Sticklepath will continue to follow the road, reaching Payne's Bridge in 1 m., whence the route is described in S. Ex. 45).

From Shilstone Tor the route to Okehampton by way of the Blackaton Brook and the north end of Raybarrow Pool takes a course a little N. of W., the stream named being crossed at, or near, the ford where the Gallaven track passes over it (T. 42). This point is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Shilstone Tor (Ex. 18, Part II). Thence the line, still N. of W., runs across the common to the northern end of Raybarrow Pool, and crossing the Peat Road (T. 41) goes W.N.W. over White Hill to the fords on the Taw. This part of the route is noticed in S. Ex. 47.

(On crossing the Taw the path to Belstone through Birchy Lake,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m., runs R.).

For Okehampton ascend the hill W. at the fords, to Winter Tor,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., where the track leading down to Crovenor Steps (T. 37, Ex. 16) will be struck. From this point the route is given in Ex. 16.

(B) This route is the same as the preceding one as far as the turning to Gidleigh village. Here the rambler will keep straight up the hill to Berry Down Farm, and thence to the head of the stroll (Ex. 19). His course is now N.W. by W. across Buttern Down, by the head of White Moor Bottom, and over the side of Kennon Hill to White Moor Stone (Ex. 17), 2 m. from the stroll. From this point he will follow the instructions given in the route from Throwleigh, S. Ex. 47. *Vide also Ex. 17.*

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[In our Excursions from Chagford mention has frequently been made of Waye Barton, on the road to Teigncombe. Here an old granite cross was formerly to be seen, lying at the back of the farm buildings. [Crosses, Chap. XIII.] I have recently been informed that it is no longer to be found there.]

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On that part of R. 33 which describes the way from Heng Lake to Ivybridge are the clay works at Red Lake, noticed in R. 7, Part I., and Ex. 30, Part IV. The line of light railway by which the clay is conveyed to the side of the Western Beacon now forms a direct road to the verge of the common above Ivybridge.

In R. 33 the way is sketched from Hexworthy to Brent. When the Avon is crossed, either some way below or just above, the canyon near Small Brook, it should be followed downward past Brent Moor House. Quite recently the right of way here to any but commoners has been questioned, notwithstanding that such right has been exercised by the public for a very long period. If the river cannot be crossed strike up the hill S.S.E. from Small Brook to Shipley Tor, and the hunting-gate, as shown in Ex. 29.

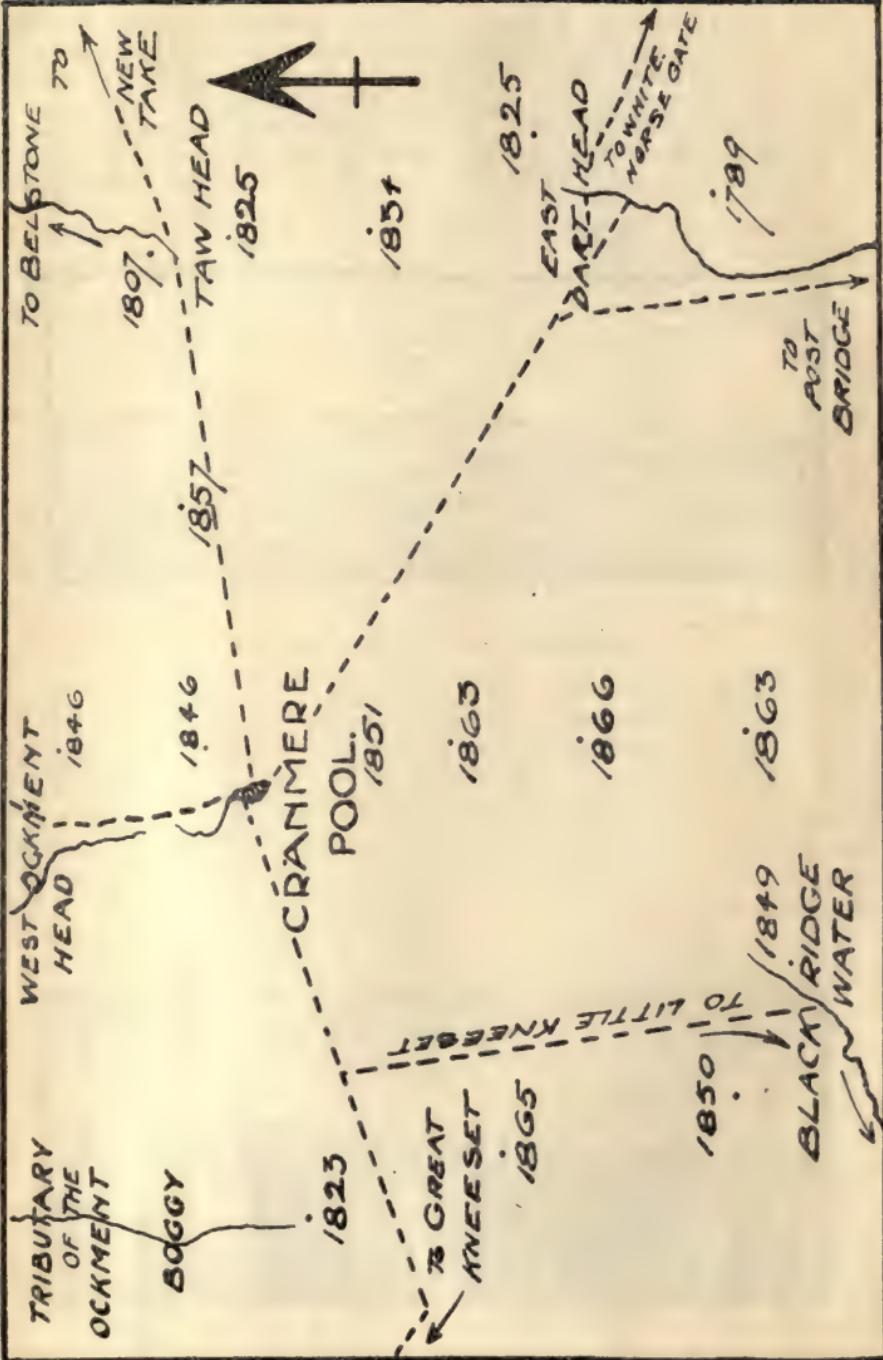
## ROUTES TO CRANMERE.

Cranmere pool is situated on the northern slope of a ridge which rises between the springs of the Dart and the West Ockment. It has sometimes been spoken of as the source of the last-named stream, and in the days when it was truly a tarn its overflow of water certainly contributed to swell the volume of the infant brook. But for more than a hundred years Cranmere has been a pool only in name, and the Ockment receives no water from it now. The true source of this is a boggy hollow several yards from the northern bank.

Cranmere is first mentioned in the *Itinerary* of William of Worcester, which was written about the close of the fifteenth century. On Donn's map of Devon, 1765, it is marked as "Craw-mere-pool, vulgo Cran-mere-pool." Polwhele, in his *Historical Views of Devon*, 1793, also mentions it; and an account has been handed down to us of a visit to it in 1802 by Mr. E. A. Bray, afterwards Vicar of Tavistock, when he found the pool dry. The name has been supposed by some to mean the lake of cranes, or herons. This may be so, but it is more probable that in the first syllable we have the Celtic *an*, or *aun*, water, and that it has no reference to the bird in question. (Cf. Crane Hill, Ex. 30). According to tradition the pool is haunted by the spirit of a former Mayor of Okehampton, who, the stories say, has sometimes appeared as an ugly dwarf—usually referred to as Binjie Gear (Benjamin Gayer)—and at others as a black colt. [Gems, Chap. III.]

In 1854 a little cairn was built in the pool by the late Mr. James Perrott, of Chagford, so long known as the Dartmoor guide. In it he placed a bottle for the reception of visitors' cards. Fifty-one years later, that is, in April, 1905, Mr. H. P. Hearder and Mr. H. Scott Tucker, both enthusiastic moorland ramblers, placed a visitors' book there. The number of signatures to the end of the year was 609. A record has been kept, and these are found to be increasing. In some years the number of names entered in the book has amounted to nearly three times as many as in the first year. The visitor will naturally choose the summer for his ramble to the pool; but it is not altogether neglected even in winter, as the records show. It is rather amusing to remember the notions that were once formed regarding it. Up to a comparatively short time ago it was the fashion to speak of the Pool as though it were placed in some almost inaccessible spot, and its discovery very doubtful. But there never was any difficulty greater than that of not knowing the way to it with nobody to direct you. The moormen did not know much about it, and for the reason that the ground surrounding it being of a character not likely to prove enticing to the animals in their charge, they had little occasion to go there. But I knew one with whom the case was different. He had a number of sheep in his charge that were pastured near Kneaset, and for some time it was his custom to pass Cranmere every day on his visits to them.

# •• 19. SURROUNDINGS OF CRANMERE.



SCALE: SIX INCHES TO A MILE. 50

C. R. 12.—From CHAGFORD,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m.; GIDLEIGH,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m., via Walla Brook Bridge. The way lies first to Batworthy Corner, as in Ex. 20, and thence down by the wall to Teign Clapper. Cross the Teign, and then cross the Walla Brook by the single stone clapper. Gidleigh visitors will reach this point by way of the Berry Down Stroll. From the confluence of these two streams Cranmere is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant W. by S., Watern Tor, which is seen rising on the ridge, being about

Great  
Kneeset.Great Links  
Tor.Amicombe  
Hill.X  
Cranmere.

FROM NEAR SUMMIT OF NEWTAKE.

midway between the two. This is a little N. of a direct line to the pool, but as it will probably be desired to include it in the ramble we make it the next point. Should the ground be swampy, as it sometimes is on this level, it will be well to keep rather near to the Walla Brook. From Watern Tor (Ex. 19) the way lies across Walla Brook Combe to Newtake, not quite 1 m. W.S.W. This is a rounded eminence, and is sometimes known as Hangingstone Hill, as mentioned in Ex. 19, where the view from it is described. Four miles from it, a little N. of W., is Great Links Tor (Ex. 13), and by taking this for a guide the visitor

Black  
Ridge.Great  
Kneeset.Great Links  
Tor.

Amicombe Hill.



W.

X

Cranmere.

FROM NEWTAKE,  $\frac{1}{3}$  M. S. OF SUMMIT.

will be led to the pool, which is 1 m. distant. To do this he passes over a stretch of fen, and if this should be in a bad state it will be well to keep a little to the R. of the distant tor. By so doing Taw Head will be struck, from which point the way is shown in C.R. 10. But at all events he must not keep L. or he will miss Cranmere. Taw Head is W. of Newtake, and about midway between it and the pool. East Dart Head is  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.W., or  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Taw Head.

A more direct route from Chagford is by way of Hew Down (Ex. 19). From Batworthy Corner a little S. of W. to the Teign; cross the river and climb the ridge, passing about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Watern Tor; thence, still S. of W., by Walla Brook Head to the S. side of Newtake, and straight to the pool. The former route, is however, the more convenient one.

In returning strike E. by N. to Newtake, and then follow a N.E. course for a short distance gradually turning more nearly E. towards Watern Tor, as in Ex. 19. A track will be seen leading up to it. On reaching this cross the stream and follow it downward for a short distance, and then strike E. to Teign Clapper. To Chagford see S. Ex. 51; to Gidleigh Ex. 19.

C.R. 13.—*From CHAGFORD via Fernworthy, 8½ m. Tawton Gate, as in Ex. 21; thence by the road to Fernworthy, and up the lane by the farmhouse as in Ex. 20; from the gate at the head of the lane follow the green track (T. 45) to Teign Head Farm. A carriage can be driven to this solitary dwelling, from which Cranmere is 2½ m. distant W.N.W. The hill facing the bridge may be ascended by the pedestrian, leaving the farm L. The course given must be followed to White Horse Gate, ¾ m., from Teign Head Bridge. Here the farm enclosures are left behind, and the way lies W.N.W. over White Horse Hill. On the L. is the source of the Varracombe Brook. Half-a-mile on is Moute's Inn, the scanty remains of a peat-cutter's hut. From this W. by N. for ½ m. to East Dart Head. Cranmere is now ½ m. distant N.W., or N.W. by W. from the upper spring in the small hollow, R. in ascending. (See C.R. 1a). When High Willes comes into view it must be taken as a landmark, and the Pool will soon be reached.*

Great Links  
Tor.Amicombe  
Hill.Foresland  
Ledge.X  
Cranmere.

N.W.

FROM NEAR E. DART HEAD.

East Dart Head will be the first point in returning,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of the pool. Keep it R. and strike E. by S. past Moute's Inn to the wall of the Teign Head enclosures. This will bring the rambler to White Horse Gate ; it is better to bear a little L. of the line on leaving Dart Head, and on reaching the wall follow it S., so that the gate may not be missed. E.S.E. across the enclosure to Teign Head Farm. Thence by the track to Fernworthy and on by the road to Tawton Gate, near Yardworthy. To Chagford as in S. Ex. 56.

C. R. 14.—*From MORETON and NORTH BOVEY, 11½ m. By road to Tawton Gate and Fernworthy. Thence as in C. R. 13. From Moreton the road runs by way of Thorn and Stiniel. See Moreton to Methereal.*

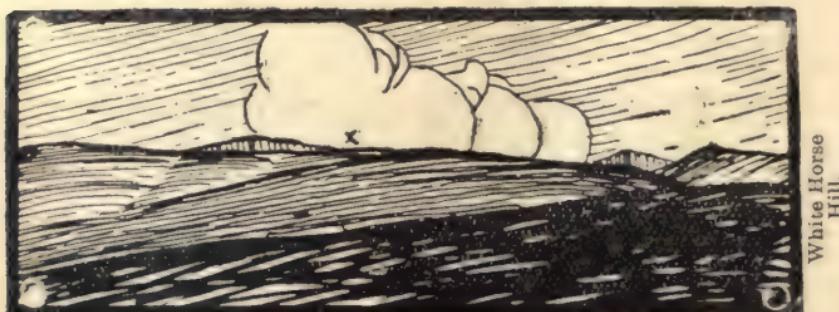
From the southern part of the moor the starting-points of the Cranmere routes are Princetown and Two Bridges, C. R. 1, 2 ; from the south-eastern part, Post Bridge, C. R. 16, 17 ; and the Warren House Inn, C. R. 15. These are given in Part I. One route from Princetown via Cut Hill,  $8\frac{3}{4}$  m., or  $7\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Two Bridges (C. R. 1c), is more fully given, with the return, in Ex. 11, Part II.

The route from Cranmere to Princetown and Two Bridges is here shown in case the rambler should desire to cross the moor to either of those places from the neighbourhood of Chagford by way of the Pool. To East Dart Head, as in C. R. 13 ; thence down that river to the bend, 2 m. ; then strike due S. to the West Dart,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  M., which follow downward to Two Bridges.

Black  
Ridge.

Okement Cranmere  
Hill. X

Hangingstone  
Steeperton. Hill.



FROM CUT HILL. LOOKING N.

## LUSTLEIGH AND BOVEY TRACEY DISTRICT.

DISTANCES (to Bovey). BY ROAD: *ASHBURTON*,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. *BARRAMOOR BRIDGE*, via Manaton, 8 m. *BECKY FALL*, 4 m. *BEETOR CROSS*, via Manaton,  $8\frac{3}{4}$  m. *BICKINGTON*, 3 m. *BUCKFASTLEIGH*, via Ashburton,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  m. *BUCKLAND-IN-THE-MOOR*, via Hemsworthy Gate,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  m.; via Ashburton,  $11\frac{1}{4}$  m. *CHAGFORD*, via Moreton, 11 m. *CHRISTOW*, via Hennock and Canonteign, 5 m. *CHUDLEIGH*, 4 m. *CLIFFORD BRIDGE*, via Dunsford, or via Moreton, 10 m. *COLD EAST CROSS*,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  m. *DARTMEET*, via Hemsworthy Gate and Widecombe,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  m. *DUNSFORD*, via Christow, 8 m. *EXETER*, via Chudleigh, 13 m. *FINGLE BRIDGE*, via Moreton,  $9\frac{3}{4}$  m. *GRENDON BRIDGE*, via Widecombe,  $10\frac{3}{4}$  m. *GRIM'S POUND*, via Widecombe and Hill Head,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  m.; via Moor Gate,  $11\frac{3}{4}$  m. *HALSHANGER CROSS*, 6 m. *HEMSWORTHY GATE*, 5 m. *HENNOCK*, 2 m. *HEXWORTHY*, via Dartmeet, 14 m. *HEY TOR*, see Lud Gate. *HEYTREE CROSS*,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. *ILSINGTON*, via Brimley, 3 m. *IVYBRIDGE*, via Ashburton,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  m. *LUD GATE*, 3 m. *LUSTLEIGH*,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  m. *LYDFORD*, via Moreton and Sandy Park, 29 m. *MANATON*, 5 m. *MOOR GATE*, via Manaton,  $9\frac{3}{4}$  m. *MORETON*,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. *NEWTON ABBOT*,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. *NORTH BOVEY*, via Manaton or Sanduck,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  m. *OKEHAMPTON*, via Moreton and Sandy Park, 20 m. *PLYMOUTH*, via Ashburton and Ivybridge, 31 m. *PLYMPTON*, do., 27 m. *POST BRIDGE* (the Dart), via Grendon Bridge,  $13\frac{3}{4}$  m. *PRINCETOWN*, via Dartmeet, 19 m. *SANDUCK*,  $5\frac{1}{4}$  m. *SOUTH BRENT*, via Ashburton,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  m. *SWINE DOWN GATE*, via Owlacombe Barrow and Leighon, 6 m. *TAVISTOCK*, via Two Bridges and Rundle Stone,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  m. *TWO BRIDGES*, via Dartmeet,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  m. *WARREN HOUSE INN*, via Moor Gate, 12 m. *WELSTOR CROSS*,  $7\frac{3}{4}$  m. *WIDECOMBE*, via Hemsworthy Gate,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  m. *YELVERTON*, via Princetown, 25 m.

BY RAIL: (G.W.R.) To *MORETON*,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  m. To *NEWTON ABBOT*, 6 m. From Newton Abbot to Ashburton, 18 m.; Brent,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Buckfastleigh,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Cornwood,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Exeter,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Ivybridge, 21 m.; Plymouth,  $32\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Plympton,  $27\frac{3}{4}$  m.; Torquay,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  m.; Totnes,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  m.

Bovey Tracey may also be reached from Exeter by the Teign Valley Railway, which runs via Christow, Ashton, and Chudleigh to Heathfield, which latter is quite near. This railway is of service to the tourist who wishes to explore the country round Christow and Bridford.

## Important Points and Landmarks.

*Important Points.* Hemsworthy Gate—Hey Tor—Rippon Tor—Swine Down Gate, or Swallaton Gate—Widecombe. *Other Places of Interest.* Becky Falls—Bottor—Bowerman's Nose—Hound Tor—Lustleigh Cleave—Manaton. *Prehistoric Antiquities.* Black Hill: tumuli—Holwell Tor: hut circles—Torhill: hut circles and reaves—Tunhill: kistvaen.

Bovey Tracey takes its name from the river on which it is situated, and the family which formerly possessed it. The Bovey was once also known as the West Teign. Though not a suitable base from which to explore the wilder parts of Dartmoor, it is well placed with regard to that corner of it comprising Ilsington Common, part of Manaton Common lands, and Lustleigh, while the Widecombe valley can also be conveniently reached from it.

The manor of Bovey formed one of the possessions of the Barony of Barnstaple, which was bestowed in the Conqueror's reign upon the Bishop of Coutances. The Barony was afterwards given to Judhael, and subsequently passed to the Traceys, who seem to have contributed in no small degree to the welfare of the place. Henry de Tracey is said to have obtained in 1259 a charter for a market and fair, to be held there, though Risdon states that a market was purchased by Eva de Tracey twenty-seven years before that date. These were still held when Risdon wrote, in the earlier part of the seventeenth century, the fairs taking place on Ascension Day and St. Thomas's Day.

Bovey did not remain undisturbed during the Civil War period. Lord Wentworth's brigade was surprised there by the Parliamentarians on the 9th January, 1646, and the old story, found in many other places, of the Royalist officers being engaged at cards and throwing their stakes among the people in the hope that during the scramble for the money they would be able to escape from their enemies, is related in connection with the fight. This is a myth; the only thing we can be sure of is that the Royalist troops were utterly defeated. The Parliamentarians were under the command of Cromwell himself, then Lieutenant-General. One account states that besides a number of officers, one hundred soldiers were taken prisoners, and that four hundred horses, one hundred and fifty head of cattle, and three hundred stands of arms, were secured by the victors.

Before starting on our excursions from Bovey it will be well to describe the great hill of Hamel Down (or Hameldon, as it is more often called), together with the valley of Widecombe, in case the visitor should desire to extend his rambles that far. These are also conveniently reached from Ashburton or Post Bridge, and the routes from those places are given in the description of that part of the moor in their vicinity. The way to the northern end of Hameldon from Chagford and Moreton has already been shown (R. 33, S. Ex. 59, 60).

## **Hameldon and the Widecombe Valley.**

Hameldon occupies the central portion of the lofty ridge extending from Shapley Common on the north to Bittleford Down on the south, a distance of 5 m. This central portion is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. in length, and, at its widest,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. in width, the ridge here rising between the valleys of the East and West Webburn. It is bounded on the north by the combe in which Grim's Pound is situated (Ex. 22), and may be said to terminate in the opposite direction near the Church Way, which crosses the down from Blackaton to Widecombe (T. 76). Overlooking the combe, as already stated (Ex. 22), is Hameldon Tor, 1,737 feet in height, and this elevation is nearly maintained by the ridge for a distance of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m., when, at Hameldon Beacon (surface level, 1,695; bench mark, 1,697) the ground begins to drop towards the S. The rambler who takes the trouble to scale this huge rounded ridge will find himself well rewarded, for though he may not, as the moormen say, be able to see the whole of Devon from it, it is certain that he will look over a good deal of the county. Though the western foot of Hameldon is some mile and a half outside the forest, the greater part of the ancient hunting-ground is nevertheless visible, as well as much of the belt of common land encircling it. In fact, there are few prominent heights in the moorland region that cannot be seen from this hill, while from whatever point it is itself viewed it forms a conspicuous feature in the scene.

About  $\frac{1}{3}$  m. S.S.E. of Hameldon Tor is Hameldon Cross, and between these a reave runs from a small bog on the western slope of the hill (from which a rivulet dribbles into the Webburn) across to another little stream on its eastern side. This reave was said by the Rev. J. P. Jones, to whom we have referred as the author of a little book on the scenery in the neighbourhood of Moreton, published in 1823, to have been traced to Waydon Tor (by which is meant White Tor, called on the moor Whitten Tor), and this can still be done, although there are several breaks in it. It is briefly noticed in Ex. 46, which describes that part of the moor in which White Tor is situated. The stream on the eastern side of the hill forms the boundary between the common lands of Manaton and Widecombe, and this is drawn from its head to Hameldon Cross, the space between the two being marked by a couple of bondstones, the lower one being called Blue Jug and the other the Grey Wethers Stone.\* This line also forms the

\* Among other bondstones on this ridge may be mentioned Hameldon Old House and Aaron's Knock. Another mark is named Two Crosses, and these were formerly cut on the turf. The late Mr. Robert Dymond, owner of Dunstone Manor, intended to erect a mark at this point, but was undecided whether it should take the form of a cross with two pairs of arms, or two separate crosses. We had some correspondence on the subject, but unfortunately his death put an end to the project.

northern boundary of Natsworthy Manor, one of the six in the parish of Widecombe, and which in the sixteenth century, appears among the vills bordering the east quarter of the forest as North Werthiehed, and also as North Worthied. On the Widecombe side of the little stream, which runs through a hollow, is the enclosure known as Berry Pound, to which reference has been made in our Chagford excursions (S. Ex. 60). The area covered is very much smaller than that occupied by Grim's Pound, and the vallum is low and not of great width. It is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W.N.W. of Higher Natsworthy.

Hameldon Cross consists of a granite slab rather over four feet in height and about two feet in width, rudely fashioned into the form of the sacred symbol, and probably has never served any other purpose than that of a boundary stone. Like other manorial bondmarks on this hill it bears its name (or rather, in this instance, the initials of its name) and the letters D.S., which stand for Duke of Somerset, the former owner of Natsworthy, and the date 1854, in which year the marks were set up or renewed. [Crosses, Chap. XVI.] Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of the cross is Broad Barrow, to which the boundary line runs, and is thence continued due S. to Single Barrow, which is not far off. This tumulus was opened in 1873 by the late Mr. C. Spence Bate, and was found to consist of earth with the exception of a low hedge of stones which encircled it, and a low cairn in the centre. About six feet from the latter a small heap of burnt human bones was discovered, together with some fragments of charcoal, and a flint flake. From Single Barrow the boundary runs a little E. of S. to Two Barrows, which are close to the corner of the wall surrounding Blackaton Down. This wall is carried down the hill westward to the Webburn, more than 500 feet below, and here forms a boundary of Manaton parish, Blackaton Down, as well as Hameldon, being in Widecombe. One of these barrows was also opened by Mr. Spence Bate, in the year preceding that of his investigation of Single Barrow. He found it to be formed like the other, and it also yielded burnt human bones and charcoal. But the chief object of interest was the bronze blade of a dagger, and the amber pommel of the same, inlaid with small pins of gold. This is now in the Museum of the Plymouth Institution. The boundary between the manors of Natsworthy and Blackaton is now marked by the wall which runs S.E. by S. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the large tumulus known as Hameldon Beacon, over which it is carried.<sup>†</sup>

The view from this elevated spot is exceedingly fine. Many of the hills with which our wanderings have made us familiar are in sight, as well as a number of others yet to be visited. North Hisworthy, on the other side of the forest, and which we ascended from Princetown (*Princetown District*) is plainly seen to the W.S.W., and to the right of it, a little S. of W., the granite cap of Mis Tor. Cut Hill rises from the recesses of the north quarter W.N.W., and from this the eye ranges over a great extent of moorland to Cosdon, the summit of which bears N.W. by N. Nearly due S. is Brent Hill, and to the right of it, S. by W., and a dozen miles away, the Eastern Beacon, which looks far out over the South Hams from its frontier station on Ugborough Moor (Ex. 32). Eastward, on the further side of the

<sup>†</sup> A stone chair preserved in a garden near Crediton is said to have been brought there from Hameldon about 1840.

Widecombe Valley, are the tors of Honeybag and Chinkwell, and beyond them Hound Tor, Hey Tor, and Rippon Tor.

The wall now runs south-westward for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. to the head of a little stream that falls into the Broadford Brook, a tributary of the West Webburn, but the limit of Natsworthy Manor is marked by bondstones, the line extending from the beacon E.S.E. for  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. to Bag Park Plantation. About 1 m. S. of these stones the Church Way crosses the down, running S.E. from the head of Gore Hill to the top of Church Lane, which leads down to Widecombe Green. Southward of this is Dunstone Down, and still further south, Bittleford Down, where the ridge terminates.

The fine group of rocks known as Honeybag Tor is the northernmost of a range extending for about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. by E., others being the equally striking Chinkwell Tor and Bonehill Rocks, with many minor piles hereafter mentioned. The high land from which these rise forms the E. side of the deep Widecombe valley, the head of which is a little to the N. of Honeybag, where the branches of the East Webburn meet. This stream, which was anciently called the Niprell, runs through it, as also does a road, the latter coming down from Heytree Cross (R. 32). The valley is here very narrow, and the scenery of a romantic character. A short distance below the confluence of the Webburn branches is the entrance to Bag Park, and below this Widecombe Manor House, not far from which the road crosses the stream and runs near its right bank. Below Bonehill Rocks, and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from its head, the sides of the valley fall back, and here, about its centre, and on slightly rising ground, is the village which for many centuries has been closely connected with the forest, and which is known as Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

In our notice of the Lich Path (T. 18), we have spoken of the application made to Bishop Bronescombe in 1260 by the dwellers in the ancient tenements of Babeny and Pizwell within the forest to be allowed to pay their tithes to the parson of Widecombe, that being the church to which they mostly resorted, in consequence of their own parish church of Lydford being at a great distance from them. And until the mission chapels at Huccaby and Post Bridge were built, in 1868-9, the forest men of the Wallabrook Valley attended Widecombe Church. They were, however, compelled to go to Lydford occasionally, for it was there that the Forest Courts were held, but beyond this it is probable that they felt less interest in that place than in Widecombe. At the present day it is likely that even this is diminished, though they are periodically reminded by the visits of the rate-collector that such a place exists.

Besides Natsworthy, which four hundred years ago was set down in a forester's account as a hamlet, there were five vills in Widecombe parish, namely, Sherwell and Grendon, the two Cators, or, as the forester gives it, the "hamelett de North Catrowe" and the "villat de Higher Catrowe," and another the name of which does not appear in the account.

No inhabited district in the whole of the moorland region has better preserved its primitive aspect than the Widecombe Valley and the hill country about it, and the visitor who desires to look into an old-fashioned land, free from what are erroneously called "improvements," will here find much to delight him. Open moor, rocky heights,

clear streams, and shady lanes, invite him to wander, and he will not go far without stumbling upon something to remind him of a by-gone day. On the commons he will find relics of the stone man ; on their verge, or hidden away in some combe, that interesting feature of the Dartmoor border parishes, the substantially built farmhouses of a couple of centuries or more ago ; in the hamlets the upping-stock, reminiscent of the time when the pillion was in vogue ; the broken crosses that tell of Time's ravages, or the vandal's hand ; walls of grey granite straggling along steep hillsides and enclosing crofts in which boulders are hardly less apparent than pasture ; rude bridges and solitary cots ; the tiny manor pound ; and much else that is " quaint and curious."

Widecombe Church, which has been sometimes called the Cathedral of the Moor, is a large building in the Perpendicular style, and possesses a handsome tower, over a hundred feet in height. At the corners of this are double buttresses, diminishing in size as they ascend the stages, of which there are three. The top is battlemented and ornamented with four crocketted pinnacles, each surmounted with a cross. According to tradition the church was built by tanners, who, having been particularly successful in their ventures in the locality, adopted this course of showing their thankfulness for their good fortune, and the presence of the alchemical symbol of three rabbits on one of the bosses of the roof (which also appears at Chagford and in other moorland churches) has been thought to support this. It is, of course, quite possible that those who came into the Webburn valleys to seek tin should have re-built, or assisted to re-build, the church, which was not only attended by the parishioners of Widecombe, but also by those who dwelt in the south-east corner of the forest, where many of the streamworks were, and although it is unwise to place too much credence in tradition, it is sometimes found to have a foundation in fact. The size of the church is readily to be accounted for when it is remembered what district it was intended to serve, but the beauty of the tower, which far surpasses that of any other in the moorland district, certainly points to its having been erected in circumstances other than the ordinary, and thus we may not unreasonably suppose the story to be true. It is also not improbable that the forest men joined with the tanners in furthering the work. On Sunday, the 21st October, 1638, Widecombe Church was the scene of an occurrence of a kind which, though not unknown in other border villages, is happily one that is rare. While the service was proceeding the vicar, the Rev. George Lyde, being in the pulpit, a sudden darkness fell, and speedily a terrific thunder-storm broke over the building, doing considerable damage. Four persons were killed, and sixty-two injured, either by the lightning or falling masonry, large stones being hurled from the tower into the body of the church. An account of the storm appeared the same year, two tracts on the subject being published in London, and it was also commemorated in some lines written by Richard Hill, the village schoolmaster, as well as in others by the Rev. George Lyde, and these have since been printed. Hill's lines were painted in black letter on boards and fixed in the chancel, but, presumably having become decayed, were replaced by the present ones, which bear the date 1786. It was there that I first saw these wooden tablets, but when the church was restored in 1874 they were

removed, and fixed against the wall in the basement of the tower, where they may now be seen. Opposite to them is a fragment of one of the old black letter boards, which came to light in a neighbouring cottage a few years ago. At the foot of the lines are the names of the churchwardens in 1786—Peter and Sylvester Mann. This name has existed in the locality for many centuries, and it is still found there. In the Court Rolls of the 10th of Henry VI., 1432-3, Robert Manna is mentioned as having taken land of the Lord of the Forest; in 1579-80, Anthony Man, of Wydecomb, surrendered the moiety of a tenement at Babeny, then held by Leonard Man; and in 1702 Richard Man is named as one of the forest tenants at Dunnabridge.

There are three stone crosses, or rather the remains of them, at Widecombe. Just without the churchyard gate is the base of one, but the cross itself is gone, and a small yew is now growing in the place it occupied. Very near to the south porch is a cross standing in a socket stone. The upper part of this one, which it will be seen has been restored, was formerly built into the churchyard wall. The third cross stands in the vicarage garden, where it was placed many years ago, but its original site was on the green at Dunstone. *Vide post.* [Crosses, Chap. XVI.] Another relic of an older day is the well, over which is raised a curious little edifice of granite. Close to the churchyard gate is a row of ancient almshouses, and on the opposite side of the road, the Old Inn. Behind the former is the green, a fine open space, whence a good view of the church tower is obtained. In the churchyard wall, and quite close to a gate at the back of the houses, is a small circular stone, 21 inches in diameter, and having a round hole through its centre. It is apparently a quern. On the north side of the green formerly stood the home of the Fitz Ralphs, of which a description has been left us in some verses by Richard Hill, the author of the lines commemorative of the great storm. This was North Hall, or as they have it locally, Narral, but the sole vestiges of it are some grass-covered mounds. In Hill's day, however, this moorland mansion was still standing, though, as he says, it was then much decayed. He describes it as being at one time surrounded with "moats of standing water," but only the ruined banks were then to be seen.

"And when the family within would walk into the town,  
Or else return, a draw-bridge firm they presently let down;  
And at their pleasure drew it up to keep the household safe.  
This house did anciently belong to Raph, the son of Raph."

In the thirteenth century Robert Courtenay granted certain privileges to the burgesses of Okehampton by charter. Among the names of those by whom this was attested occurs that of Ralph, son of Ralph, who was probably a representative of this Widecombe family; as also, it is supposed, was Richard Fitz-Ralph, made Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland by Pope Clement VI., in 1347.

The parish has not been without its benefactors. In a law case in 1680, at which time Jonathan Tickell was Vicar, mention was made by Thomas Lyde, one of the deponents, of two deeds dated 12th December, 1479, as being then in the church chest at Widecombe. By these a grant of the Church House was made to the trustees for the benefit of the parishioners. About the year 1797 Miss White gave the sum of £142, to be applied to the education of poor children of the parish. The interest being augmented by annual subscriptions,

four schools were supported, and instruction given to fifty children. The poor had also 13s. a year, which was left by Lewis Wills and Sampson Jerman.

William Stephens, of the "Leek Seed Chapel," was born in this parish in 1742. He left Widecombe in early life, and after some adventurous years became a gardener, and ultimately settled near St. Blazey, in Cornwall, where the chapel, which his labours helped so much to build, is situated. He died in 1822.

John Gerrard, the author of a book of poems published in 1769, was for some time curate of Widecombe. He does not, however, appear to have been a native of Devon.

Jonas Coaker, the Dartmoor poet, to whom we have referred in Part I., spent the earlier years of his life in Widecombe. In 1876 he contributed some verses descriptive of the place to a book edited by Mr. Robert Dymond, of Blackslade.

From 1815 until his death in 1860 the Rev. James Holman Mason was vicar of Widecombe. He was a parson of the old-fashioned type, and many stories are yet related concerning him. Soon after his institution to the parish he was appointed a deputy rider and master forester of Dartmoor. [*Hundred Years*, Chap. V.] At the manor house lived his niece, Mrs. Drake, or Lady Drake, as she insisted on being called, who is still well remembered for her eccentricities.

Widecombe has been called the cold country, and like every other place in the Dartmoor region, at certain times it must be confessed its climate is anything but genial. I have been on the top of Hameldon when the hill was hard gripped by the hand of Winter, and darkness was coming on, and was made painfully aware of it. In the in-country it used to be said when snow was falling that Widecombe folks were picking their geese. It has, however, been suggested that "Widecombe" in this case is merely a corruption of "widdicote," meaning the sky, and it is possible that a confusion of terms led to the former belief that Widecombe was a very cold place. The comparison of falling snow with feathers was made a very long time ago. When the Scythians said the air was filled with them, Herodotus was at no loss to understand what was meant.

In September falls the great event of the year in this moorland parish. It is then that Widecombe Fair is held, and forest folk and men from the in-country for miles around flock to the village, as on a certain day (Tom Pearse havin' lained he's grey mare) did "Beel Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney, Peter Davy, Dan'l Whiddon, Harry Hawk, Old Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all." Then for a brief space unwanted sounds are heard; the voices of buyer and seller, and the laughter of the reveller, break the quietude. But the next rising sun looks down into the valley to see it again in repose, in which state it continues till, another twelve months having passed, the day of business and festivity comes round again.

## Excursions from Bovey Tracey, Lustleigh, and Ilsington.

The district described in these excursions is bounded on the N. by a line drawn from Lustleigh Cleave through Manaton to Heytree Down; on the W. by the ridge of Hameldon; and on the S. by a line running from Dunstone to Chittleford, Blackslade Down, and Hemsworthy Gate, to Bag Tor Down. In the Shorter Excursions a few places near the town of Bovey Tracey are also described, and in the Excursions from Widecombe directions are given for reaching the chief objects of interest in that locality.

[Tracks in the vicinity: Nos. 48 to 52.]

A few objects will claim our attention before we set out on our rambles. Bovey Tracey church stands at the higher part of the town, and is dedicated to St. Thomas, of Canterbury. It is in the Perpendicular style, and contains, among other memorials, monuments to Sir John Stawell, who died in 1669; Nicholas Eveleigh, who died in 1620; and Elizeus Hele, of Fardle, near Ivybridge. Those of the two last-named are cenotaphs, neither of the men they commemorate being buried here. The monuments were erected, it is said, by the widow of Hele, who had been wife to both. Very wisely she put no inscriptions on the monuments, so there is nothing to criticize. Near the south gate of the churchyard is a very handsome cross, but it is in great measure a "restoration." The lower part of the shaft and one of the arms are all that belongs to the original cross, but it was deemed fitting that these fragments should be preserved. Its erection here was due to the efforts of the Hon. and Rev. Canon Courtenay, when he became vicar of Bovey.

In the centre of the town is another of these memorials of a past day. This is the old market cross, which was repaired and placed in its present situation in 1865. The lower stage of the pedestal on which it stands is modern, as also is the head of the cross. A third cross is to be seen built into the wall of a garden belonging to Cross Cottage, not far from Higher Atway Farm.

At Indio, near a new church that was built in 1853, there was formerly a priory, or cell, of Black Friars, and a chapel is also said to have existed in former days in the vicinity of the town. This was situated under Colehays Plantation, and not very far from Lower Brimley. (S. Ex. 81).

Ex. 23.—*Lustleigh, Lustleigh Cleave, Little Silver, Manaton, Bowerman's Nose, Becky Fall, Trendlebere Down, 13 m. from and to Bovey Station. From Lud Gate (the point where the road from Ilsington to Hey Tor enters on the common), and Ilsington about 1 m. more.*

For the purpose of visiting the romantic valley known as Lustleigh Cleave, and the district around Manaton, where so much that is interesting is to be found, we shall first make our way to the village

of Lustleigh, which is charmingly situated in the valley of the Wray. Should the visitor prefer the walk through the lanes instead of taking the train at Bovey (the distance by railway is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m.), he will cross the line at the station and follow the road for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Five Wyches Cross, where he will turn R.  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. on is a footpath across some fields R., and into this he will strike, and skirting Lodge Wood, and crossing a road (running R. to Wilford Bridge), will be led by it to Pullaford Farm. This he will pass through, and follow the lane to New Bridge on the Bovey.

Visitors at the Rock Hotel, The Moorland Hotel, and Lud Gate will take the Bovey road to the fork beyond Owlacombe,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the latter, and then branch L. across Lower Down to the guide-post, there turning R. to New Bridge.

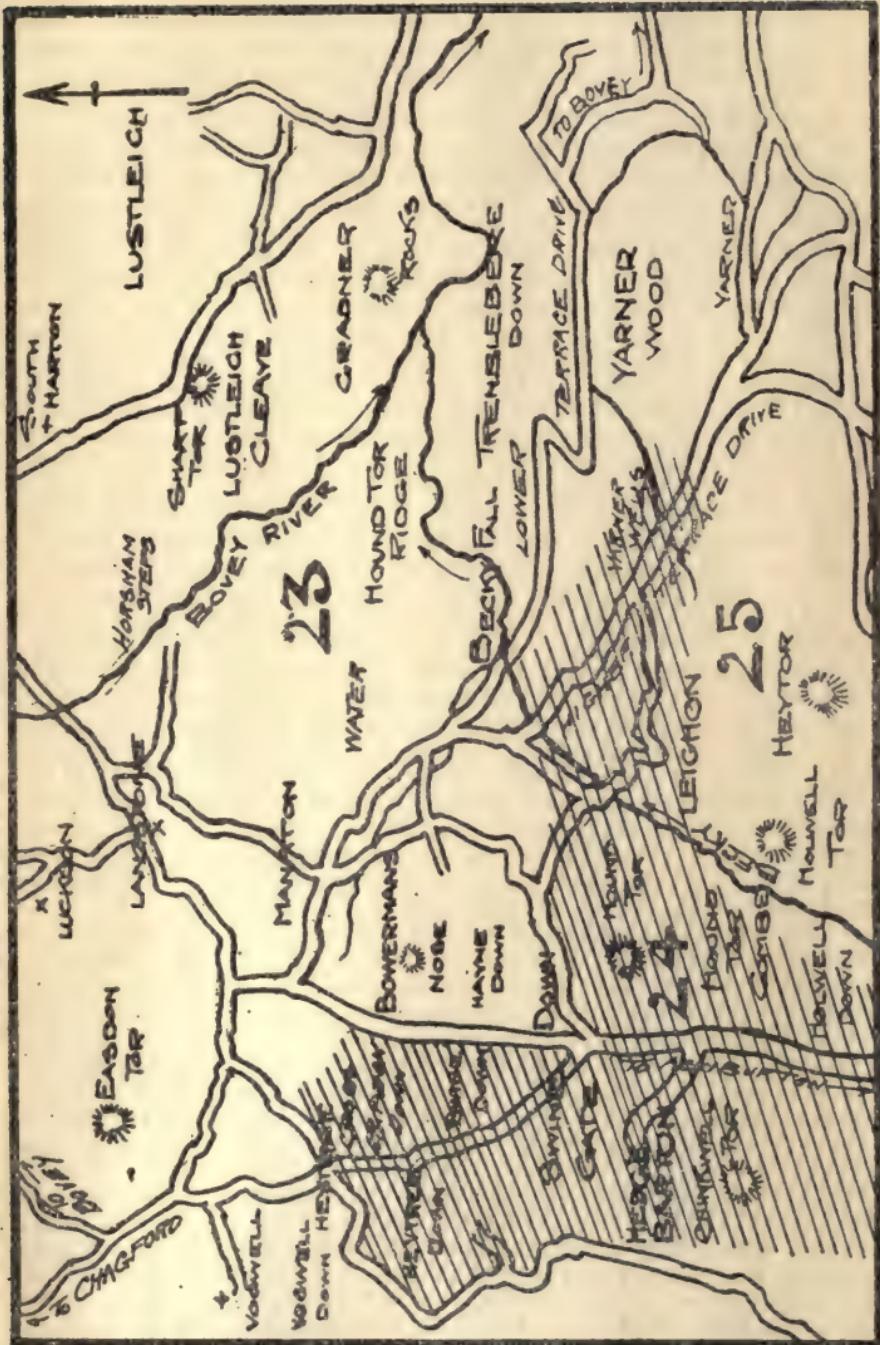
Visitors at Ilsington, or the Hey Tor Hotel, first make their way to Narrowcombe, where they will turn L. and passing up the hill to the guide-post on the verge of the common, will reach the Bovey road. Here they turn R. to the forks beyond Owlacombe and follow the directions just given.

Immediately beyond New Bridge is Packsaddle Bridge, which spans the Wray. The former the visitor will cross, but not the latter, the road to Lustleigh turning L. between the two. A little way on this forks, the point being marked by a guide-post. If it should be desired to go to the cleave direct the L. branch must be followed; for Lustleigh village the R. branch will be chosen. (By the L. road the down will be reached in  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Pass the first cross road; then the entrance to Pethybridge Farm; then a second road, and continue W. to the common. From this point a footpath runs across it to another leading down to a footbridge on the Bovey below Wanford Wood,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant).

Lustleigh, like Bovey Tracey, is outside venville, and has played no part in Dartmoor history, but it has its place among the parishes that go to form the moorland region, nevertheless, and contributes in no slight degree to its beauties. The village is small, but has a pleasing appearance, not only on account of its delightful situation, but for the manner in which the cottages are dotted about. The church possesses several features of interest, among them being a Norman font, two ancient monumental tombs, and an inscribed stone of the Romano-British period. One monument is supposed to be the effigy of Sir William Prouz, and another is generally believed to be to the memory of Sir John Dynham and his wife, though there is much doubt about this. In 1483 the office of Master Forester of Dartmoor was granted to Sir John.

The Rev. William Davy, who was curate of the parish at the latter end of the eighteenth century and during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, was the compiler of a work which he called *A System of Divinity*, and which consisted of 26 volumes of nearly 500 pages each. Not being willing to incur the risk of having it printed, he purchased a fount of worn-out type, made a press, and set up and printed the whole work himself. When it was completed he presented a copy to his diocesan; referring to it later the bishop remarked that he could not be supposed to notice every *trifle* that appeared in print. William Davy is remembered to-day, but the bishop is forgotten; posterity does not regard the result of fifty years' labour as a *trifle*.

# 11. BOVEY TRACEY DISTRICT.



EXCURSIONS 2.3, 2.4, & PART OF 2.5. (FOR W. OF WIDECOMBE VALLEY SEE MAPS 10 & 13.)

Not far from the station is a block of granite, which it is not unlikely formed the pedestal of a cross. It is known as the Bishop's Stone, and tradition relates that Bishop Grandisson once dined upon it. The carving on the side, of which, however, only traces are now to be seen, has been said to represent the arms of that prelate. But there is reason for supposing that it was once a bondmark to some lands connected with the See of Exeter, and it may have obtained its name in that connection. [Crosses, Chap. XV.] Another curious object in this locality is a rock at the rectory on the road to Sanduck called the Parson's Brown Loaf, but which, it appears, once bore the name of the Map Stone, and this has been given to the villa near by.

In order to reach the common we shall turn up a lane near the smithy, which in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will bring us to Ellimore. Just beyond this we turn R., and proceeding for a short distance towards Hammers-lake turn L., and shall speedily find ourselves, close to Sharp Tor, the summit of which is about 200 feet above us. From this pile of rocks we have a fine view of the cleave, by which term is now comprehended the romantic valley from above Foxworthy to Hisley Wood, though there is good reason to believe that in this case the word *cleave* is a corruption of cliff. (cf. Tavy Cleave, Ex. 11). At all events, there is documentary evidence showing that the hill was once known as Bortor Down and Bovey Combe Cliff, and Bovey Combe is still found here, a cottage above Hisley Wood being called by that name. On the tor is a logan bearing the name of the Nutcrackers, one which is applied to most of the moving stones on the moor, and on the slope are one or two other "logging" rocks. A little to the S.E. of the tor is a small circular enclosure, and there are vestiges of another a short distance N.W. on land belonging to South Harton Farm, while at the N.W. end of the ridge, near Hunters Tor, is an ancient hill camp. This, and another at Water Hill, on the ridge on the further side of the valley, form part of the chain of forts referred to in our notice of the encampments above the gorge of the Teign (S. Exs. 64, 65, 66). Some miles further S. are Place Wood Camp, Boro Wood Castle, Holne Chase Castle, and Hembury Castle, all of which are briefly noticed in our account of the Ashburton District.

The valley of Lustleigh Cleave is formed by the ridge situated between the Wray and the Bovey, and the steeps rising from the latter to the farm lands of Manaton. One side of it—that on which we stand—is bare common, the other is clothed with woods. At the lower end of the valley this further side takes the form of a peninsula ridge, at the eastern extremity of which the Bovey and the Becky Brook unite their waters. This is known as Hound Tor Ridge, or Hound Tor Wood, its higher slopes forming Water Hill, on which is situated the encampment just referred to. On the further side of this ridge the Becky comes down from Hound Tor Combe, the valley here being formed by the wood and East Down, as the common below Trendlebere Down is called. N.W. of Sharp Tor is a rock called Harton Chest, and just beyond this the fine entrance to South Harton Farm. A little further on the highest part of the ridge is reached, 1,063 feet, and beyond this, and about 1 m. from Sharp Tor, is the Lustleigh Camp. Quite near to it is Hunters Tor, from which the hills drops down to the enclosed lands at its N.W. extremity. A spur of it runs a short distance northward of the camp, and this is known as North Harton Down. Not far

from Hunters Tor is Peck Farm, a name borne by some old mining remains near by, these being usually known as Peck Pits. In the *Shorter Excursions, post*, we have again noticed the cleave (S. Ex. 75; *vide also Gems, Chap. IX.*)

It has already been stated that a number of paths cross the down forming the steep side of the cleave (T. 48), and one of these leads from near Sharp Tor to crossing-places on the Bovey. This we may strike by making our way southward from the tor, and shall then follow it R. Our next point is Manaton, the church of which we have been able to see from the tor nearly due W., and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. off, but we do not make our way direct to it. Instead of doing so we follow the path down the hill, avoiding the branches L., and passing some rocks called the Foxes' Yard (L. of the path and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the tor) shall be led to Horsham Steps. This curious crossing-place is formed by a number of boulders lying so closely together that unless the river be in flood it is possible to walk from one bank to the other with ease. In fact, the stream is not seen, as it finds a channel for itself under the huge lumps of granite. Below the steps it falls into a fine pool known as Horsham Bay, and then sweeps round the wooded height of Horsham Cleave, which is crowned with a pile of rocks. Form these natural stepping-stones a path climbs the hill on the further side of the stream to Horsham Farm, whence a lane runs to Manaton, but instead of following this we pass up the L. bank of the river, under the crags of Ravens' Tor, which rise from the hillside R., some 300 feet above us, to Foxworthy. First we pass the disused Foxworthy Mill, and proceeding along a narrow track shall speedily reach the farm. Here we turn L. to Foxworthy Bridge, a clapper spanning the Bovey, on the bank of which just below is the mass of granite known as the Round of Beef, and shall find ourselves in one of the loveliest nooks in the whole of Devon. Close to us on the R. is the thatched cottage called Little Silver, which, placed amidst a congeries of moorstone, and embosomed in trees, adds much to the romantic character of the scene. The name Silver is found attached to several places in the county, and much ingenuity has been exercised in regard to its meaning. The last syllable may possibly be a corruption of *ford*, and may refer to a crossing-place on a stream, or to a road or path, but the meaning of *sil* is not apparent. It may, however, be pointed out that in Domesday Silverton appears as Sulfreton, and in old documents we have such a place-name at Sulford. Hence it has been suggested that the first syllable of the name was originally *sul*, and perhaps had some connection with the Anglo-Saxon word for plough, which implement is even yet spoken of on the moor as a sull.

Leaving the charming scene we make our way up a steep and narrow path, through the wood called Neadon Cleave, on emerging from which the path will lead us across some fields to a lane, which will shortly bring us to another, where we turn L., and shall speedily find ourselves at Manaton. The chief feature of this Dartmoor village, and one that is particularly pleasing, is its spacious green. This is bordered with trees, and around it the houses are grouped. At its higher, or northern end, is a small inn, the Half Moon, and behind this is the tor called Manaton Rocks, which, instead of rising bare and stern from the heather, springs, as it were, from masses of foliage where the light quivering leaves of the quickbeam contrast delightfully

with the dark green of the glistening holly. The view of Lustleigh Cleave from this cluster of rocks is remarkably fine. In another direction, S. by E., we see Hey Tor, and S.W. by S., beyond the little valley of the Hayne, the great stone which Nature has rudely moulded into a semblance of the human form, and to which has been given the name of Bowerman's Nose.

In the churchyard is the base of a cross. The cross was removed many years ago by a former rector on account of a custom the country-people had of carrying corpses brought for burial round it thrice. His influence over his flock does not appear to have been sufficiently powerful to enable him to dissuade the people from continuing the practice, and so he took it away and either destroyed or buried it. Search was made for it, but without any satisfactory result. [Crosses, Chap. XV.] A few years ago an old cross was discovered near the village and was set up in the churchyard. But whether it is the cross that the rector removed is open to question. It is more of the character of a wayside cross than of one designed to stand in such a place. Great damage was done to the church by lightning on the 13th December, 1779.\* It is Perpendicular in style, and was restored in 1865. The doorway is formed of four huge granite stones, and a similar one is seen at Lustleigh. An enclosure formerly existed near the village which was described in a paper read before the members of the Plymouth Institution in 1830, and was conjectured by Colonel Hamilton Smith to have given name to the place, *maen-y-dun*, the stone enclosure (*dun*, a hill, or hill-fort), but it was unfortunately destroyed in 1849. It was of an elliptical form, and consisted of a wall formed of stones from four to six feet high set on their edges. Its diameters were 100 feet and 138 feet.† A fragment of an ancient wall is still to be seen at Town Barton Farm, but whether this is a part of the enclosure in question seems to be rather doubtful.

A short distance S. of Town Barton is Hayne Cross, and making our way thither we turn R. to Hayne, whence a path will lead us to Hayne Down, on which, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the enclosures, we perceive the weather-beaten Bowerman's Nose. This curiously-shaped pile, which the imaginations of former antiquaries turned into a rock idol, is really part of a tor, the other part having gone to ruin and now forming the clatter below it. It consists of five layers of granite, and rises to a height of nearly forty feet. In the Notes to Carrington's *Dartmoor*, 1826, it is stated that a person named Bowerman lived at Hound Tor, near by, in the Conqueror's time, by which we suppose some sort of connection between that individual and the rock is suggested. But it has also been thought that Bowerman may be a corruption of *vaur maen*, the great stone. This derivation is, however, open to the objection that the words would not fall in this order, but that the great stone would be referred to by Celts as *maen vaur*, the noun

\* Dr. Croker (*The Eastern Escarpment of Dartmoor*, 1851) refers to this, and gives an extract relating to it from the parish register.

† This is stated by Dr. Croker to have been situated in a field called Hookaway. He says it was partly destroyed in 1849, and almost wholly so in 1850, only six stones being then left standing. The above measurements were taken by the Rev. Samuel Rowe, who visited the enclosure in 1828.

coming first, so that we might rather expect to find the term corrupted to Minevower. But there is more than one "nose" on Dartmoor, or "nawze," as the moormen say, as we shall see by-and-bye, and most, if not all, of these names are modern. It is possible that this of Bowerman's Nose may also be of no great antiquity, though we cannot say that such is the case. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Bowerman's Nose is another tor (1,300 feet), the two being connected by a reave, and near this is a kistvaen. A little W. of S. of the second tor, and less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from it, is a small group of hut circles, just inside a new-take, but they present nothing remarkable.

[W. of Bowerman's Nose is a road running southward to Swine Down Gate (R. 32, from Moreton). Should the visitor choose he may follow this, and on passing through the gate turn L. by the wall and descend by Great Hound Tor Farm to Leighon Bridge, as in R. 25, and so make his way to Bovey as therein directed.]

We shall return from the down to Hayne Cross, either by way of Hayne or through Southcott, which latter lies under the southernmost tor in an easterly direction. At the cross we keep straight on to Deal, where we pass over the Hayne Brook, and then turning R. shall follow the road to the Becky, which we reach immediately above where the Hayne falls into it, and close to New Bridge. Here we cross the last-named stream at a foot-bridge, and after passing over two others, shall reach Becky Fall, a spot beloved by all visitors to this part of the moor.

Although Becky Fall may not on ordinary occasions fully realize the expectations of those who look to see a cascade, it can never be disappointing, for the beauty of its surroundings more than compensates for the lack of a full stream. But viewed at the time of a summer freshet the fall is very fine, for then the little river, nut brown and flecked with foam, comes down with a roar, and dashes impetuously over the rocks that fill its channel. From the top of the falls to the bottom the drop is from 70 to 80 feet, and having rolled and tumbled to the foot of this boulder-strewn steep, it runs along merrily under Hound Tor Wood to meet the Bovey as it comes from Lustleigh Cleave. Then the united stream flows on between Rudge Wood and Pullabrook Wood, and having passed under New Bridge receives the Wray, and thence, knowing only the name of Bovey, the waters run to the great plain of the Heathfield, where they are lost in the Teign.

Returning to New Bridge we cross it, and thence follow the road over Trendlebere Down, known as the Lower Terrace Drive. By the side of this is a stone row with a small cairn at one end of it, but most of the stones are fallen. The road will take us along the foot of Yarner Wood, and here we have a fine view northward of Lustleigh Cleave. Having passed the wood we reach a guide-post just beyond which the road forks. The L. branch will take us to Five Wyches Cross, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Bovey Station; the R. to Lower Down Cross,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the former. *Vide* R. 25. On reaching the common from New Bridge visitors at Ilsington and the vicinity should turn R., and ascending to the Higher Terrace Drive make their way S. to Yarner Wells. Instructions for reaching their destination from that point are given at the end of Ex. 24. A notice of Yarner Wells will be found in Ex. 25.

**Ex. 24.—Lower Down Cross, Leighon, Swine Down Gate, Jay's Grave.** [EXTENSION to Cripdon Down, Natsworthy, and Bonehill Down.] *Hound Tor, Grea Tor, Hound Tor Combe, Black Hill, Yarner Wells, 12½ m. ; with Extension, 16 m. from and to Bovey Station. From Lud Gate, 4½ m. less ; Ilsington, 2 m. less.*

Setting out from the station the visitor will take the road to the moor as in Ex. 23, but instead of turning off at Five Wyches Cross he will continue straight up the hill to Lower Down Cross, nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on, where he will turn R. by the school. In about 1 m. he will reach a guide-post, where a road runs up the hill to the lower Yarner Lodge. This he will leave on the L., and striking into the Lower Terrace Drive will speedily be led by it to the edge of Yarner Wood. The drive, which is first carried along the lower part of the wood, gradually ascends to a point where the hill on the L. becomes very steep, and here, 300 feet above the guide-post, it leaves the wood and turns towards the north. The visitor will now forsake the road, and climb the hill L., his course being a trifle S. of W., and in a little over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will reach the Higher Terrace Drive at a point about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of Yarner Wells.

Visitors from Ilsington and the neighbourhood will reach this point by way of the Wells, as directed in Ex. 25 and in S. Ex. 79.

Crossing the drive the rambler will bear W., with the summit of Black Hill L., and soon afterwards bending R. will strike the road running down to Leighon (S. Ex. 79), which will lead him past the house to the bridge over the Becky Brook. Crossing it he will turn L. a few yards below, and will soon come in sight of Great Hound Tor Farm. This he will leave on the R., and pass up the steep and narrow lane leading to Hound Tor Down, on reaching which he will obtain a remarkably fine view of Hound Tor, or rather of one part of it. The huge rocks are seen cresting a height immediately above him, and sharply defined against the sky. Proceeding upward, with the wall of some enclosures R. and Hound Tor Down L., the visitor will soon reach Swine Down Gate, or as it is locally called, Swallaton Gate, close to which is a cottage. Passing through this he will take the L. branch of the road at the forks immediately inside. (The R. branch runs over Hayne Down, passing very near to Bowerman's Nose, less than 1 m. distant, Ex. 23, to Langstone, North Bovey, and Moreton, R. 53). The road we now follow skirts Swine Down, the enclosures of Hedge Barton being on the L. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the gate a path runs off L. between the estate named and Heytree, and here we shall notice a small mound, with a head and footstone. It is the burial place of a suicide, and is known as Jay's Grave. Kitty Jay, as she used to be spoken of, is said to have been a young unmarried woman, who many years ago hanged herself in an outbuilding belonging to Canna, a farm not far from the foot of East Down (S. Ex. 61), and in accordance with the barbarous custom of the time, was interred at this cross-way. About 1861 Mr. James Bryant, of Hedge Barton, caused the grave to be opened, when human bones, including a skull, were discovered, and declared on examination to be those of a female. The date of the unfortunate woman's death is unknown, as no one then remembered the occurrence. Mr. Bryant had the bones placed in a box and re-interred on the spot where they had been found, and raised the mound and set up the stones that now mark it.

From this point the road runs northward, with Cripdon Down R. and the Heytree enclosures L., to Heytree Cross, Easdon Farm, Beotor Cross, and Chagford, and has already been described in R. 53. Cripdon Down, which presents nothing remarkable, is a small common to the W. of Hayne Down. At its northern end, near Cripdon Farm, are a few hut circles, and close to a path running across it to Blissmoor Farm there is a small pool.

[*EXTENSION to the eastern side of the Widecombe Valley.* Instead of returning direct to Hound Tor Down the visitor may extend his walk so as to embrace the tors overlooking the valley of Widecombe, and for this purpose will turn into the path running W. from Jay's Grave. This, which is known as Heytree Common Lane, will lead him by a small plantation to Heytree Down, a common to the S. of Vogwell Down, and on which there is a group of hut circles. These will be found on its western side, near a track. Vogwell Down, which is even smaller than Heytree, lies to the S. of the farm bearing the same name, and is partly surrounded by plantations, S. Ex. 61, 62. Our way lies along the southern verge of Heytree, with Hameldon rising before us, to it S.W. corner, close to Natsworthy, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the grave at the crossway. Here we strike the road coming from Heytree Cross and running southward to Widecombe, and shall turn into it L. Passing Higher and Lower Natsworthy we follow this road for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the latter, when we shall turn L., between a plantation and some enclosures, to the common. Above us are the rocks of Honeybag, to which we shall climb, and thence make our way southward across Bonehill Down. The moor road runs on below the tors for a considerable distance, joining the Ashburton road rather less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Swine Down Gate, which shortly afterwards unites with the one leading from Widecombe to Hemsworthy Gate. From Honeybag Tor we have a fine view of the upper part of the Widecombe valley, and of Hameldon, a wide extent of moorland and cultivated country being also visible. The derivation of its name is not clear, but it may be worth while to note, if only as a curious circumstance, its similarity to *hunne-bed*, a name given to ancient burial monuments situated chiefly in the province of Drenthe in the Netherlands. To the E. of the tor, and close to it, is Goodlays Plantation, belonging to Hedge Barton, and the house is also quite near. Proceeding southward we make our way to Chinkwell Tor, the next height, 1,504 feet, before reaching which we pass one of a line of manorial boundary stones, standing at a point called Slades Well. Another boundary near by is known as L. Corner. On this part of the down there are several hut circles, and on the tor we shall also find some reaves, which appear not unlike parts of rectangular enclosures, while the summit is crowned with a dilapidated cairn, much overgrown. From this lefty point we have another grand view; in fact, during our progress over the down we have around us a wonderful panorama of rock and hill, of wood and field. Southward of Chinkwell is another pile of rocks, to which the name of Sharp Tor is sometimes given, and still further south is Bel Tor, 1,319 feet, on which we shall find two or three rock basins. Near it a footpath runs to Hedge Barton, and this we shall cross, as well as a road running over the common towards Hound Tor Down, and also a continuation of the one which we left below Honeybag. Soon we reach Bonehill

Rocks, 1,227 feet, a fine pile near the southern end of Bonehill Down, and having climbed it, and looked down upon Widecombe village, nearly 500 feet below, we pass up the ascent eastward to the Chagford and Ashburton road, to which a walk of a  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will bring us. Here we turn L., and on passing the corner of the Hedge Barton enclosures shall find ourselves on Hound Tor Down. The road runs on for  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. to Swine Down Gate, with the wall of Hedge Down, which is now enclosed, on the L., but we shall strike over the common R. towards Hound Tor.]

Retracing our steps from Jay's Grave we shall again pass through Swine Down Gate, and make our way to Hound Tor, which is close by. This tor, certainly one of the finest on the moor, consists of three main piles, rising to a considerable height above the ground. Around these are many smaller masses of granite, the tor covering altogether a large area. The view which the visitor will obtain from it will well repay him for any trouble he may have taken to reach it. It is one of border scenery, and of far-off farm lands. He does not look into the desolate parts of the moor, the wildness of its recesses being altogether hidden notwithstanding that a great extent of it is visible; but he sees it where its sternness is softened down to a mood more fitting to welcome the woods and fields that press against its slopes. A short distance S. of the tor is a ruined kistvaen. Little of it now remains, many of the stones of which it consisted having been taken away about forty years ago for road material. [Gems, Chap. X.]

Leaving Hound Tor we shall descend the side of the combe which bears its name to Grea Tor, crossing on the way the path running S. towards Holwell (T. 50). Grea Tor, which is not quite  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Hound Tor, is one of the most beautiful on the moor, and is draped in a similar manner to Manaton Rocks and Okel Tor (Ex. 23, 1). Springing from the crevices of the grey rocks, that rise like a stately tower from the turf, are ferns and whortleberry plants, and the graceful quickbeam, partly shrouding them as perchance they did long ago when a maiden walked with her lover here at eventide. Then a time arrived when she came alone to the tor, for the youth had been called away to the wars. Summer followed summer, and at length the maiden's visits ceased, and the tor knew her no more. She rested in the quiet churchyard of Manaton, while her lover slept in a foreign land.

Passing down the Hound Tor Combe, we cross the Becky and ascend the hill, with Smallacombe Rocks R. and Leighon Tor L., our course being about E. The last-named pile is on the slope of Black Hill, and over the southern edge of this we pass, and descending its steep eastern side shall reach Varner Wells, 1 m. from the combe. From this point the return to Lud Gate will be by way of the Higher Terrace Drive. If bound to Ilsington the visitor will leave this  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond the Wells, and follow a narrow moor road branching from it L. This will bring him to the guide-post below Owlacombe Barrow, where he will take the road to the village, turning R. shortly before reaching it at Narrowcombe. For Bovey the visitor will pass down the hill N.E. from the Wells, with Varner Wood close to him on the R. In little over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. he will reach the Lower Terrace Drive, and turning into this R. will reach the town as in the preceding excursion, or R. 25.

(The road route from Hound Tor is given at the end of R. 25).

Ex. 25.—*Yarner Wells, Black Hill, Leighon Tor, Smallacombe Rocks, Holwell Tor, Saddle Tor, Bag Tor Down, Hey Tor, 11 m. from and to Bovey Station. From the Rock Hotel, the Moorland Hotel, and Lud Gate, about 5 m. less; Ilsington, 2½ m. less.*

The road leading upward from the station to the moor will be followed as in the preceding excursions, and as Yarner Wells is his first point the visitor may again turn R. at Lower Down Cross, and make his way by the Lower Terrace Drive to the foot of Yarner Wood, and then, keeping this close on the L., pass up the common to the Wells. Or he may keep straight up the hill instead of turning at the Cross, for another 1½ m., when he will reach the common near Owlacombe. Here he will leave the road, and turning R. strike over the edge of this above Yarner Wood, and passing Yarner, the residence of Mr. Justice Eve, will soon reach a narrow road, which a little further on runs into the Higher Terrace Drive, about ¼ m. from the Wells. This is the path referred to in Ex. 24 as being the direct one from the last-named point to Ilsington.

Visitors from Ilsington reach the common soon after passing Narrowcombe, as in Ex. 23, and crossing the main road at the guide-post on its verge, will take the narrower one just mentioned, which runs up the hill in a north-westerly direction. On the R. is a line of bondstones, which extends from near the guide-post to the Becky, in Hound Tor Combe, one part of it marking the boundary between the parishes of Ilsington and Bovey Tracey, the other the boundary between Ilsington and Manaton. These stones, like most others that serve a similar purpose on Dartmoor, bear names, the third which the visitor will pass after leaving the road being called Prince Albert, and the one next to it being generally referred to as Owlacombe Barrow, though no tumulus now exists there. A little beyond this the visitor will cross the line, and the next stone will therefore be on his left. This is known as Old William, the one still further up the hill being Old Jack. Beyond this is Victoria, and the next marks the point where the parishes of Ilsington, Manaton, and Bovey Tracey meet, the line between the last two running down the hill direct to Yarner Wells, rather over ¼ m. distant, N.E. by N. The Ilsington and Manaton line then runs on to the Prince of Wales bond-stone, then to Hole Rock, and thence to the Becky. Above the point where it strikes this little stream the latter becomes the boundary, and two or three stones are found on its bank. There is one at Long Pool, under Smallacombe Rocks, and another further up which is known as Duke Stone. The line then runs on to Hawkeswell, near the head of the Becky, and thence to Seven Lords' Land, which is noticed further on (S. Ex. 82).

Visitors from the Rock Hotel, the Moorland Hotel, and from Lud Gate will proceed to the Wells by way of the Higher Terrace Drive. Visitors at the Hey Tor Hotel can also readily reach this drive *via* Lud Gate.

The tract of moorland lying to the S. of the line drawn from Owlacombe to the Becky, and extending beyond Rippon Tor to the enclosures of Mountsland and Horridge, is situated in the parish of Ilsington, and its northern portion is usually spoken of as Ilsington Common. This consists of two parts, the northernmost forming Hey Tor Down, and that to the S. of it Bag Tor Down, and over these our present excursion will extend. That part of the Ilsington common lands

lying still further S. and comprising Horridge Common, on which Rippon Tor is situated, and Mountsland Common are noticed in the *Ashburton Section*, and to this visitors desirous of exploring that part of the moor are referred.

At Yarner Wells, where is a cottage on the edge of the wood, a little stream rises in a romantic hollow and runs down the steep hill-side, one portion of it being conducted to the old Yarner Copper Mine, and another to the fish pond near the lower Yarner lodge. The spot lies immediately under the steep brow of Black Hill, the summit of which, though only  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, is some 300 feet higher, its elevation being 1,339 feet. To this we shall now make our way, following a N.W. course, and on reaching it shall find it to be crowned with a tumulus. The view from this point is very fine, and embraces the lower valley of the Becky with Manaton and Lustleigh Cleave, and in another direction Hound Tor with the moorlands beyond. A little W. of S. of the summit, and near Leighon Tor, is a group of three tumuli, a number found together in many parts of the moor. S. of the tor is the boundary line just described, which here runs from Prince of Wales Stone westward to Hole Rock, and this we cross on our way to Smallacombe Rocks, a large cluster of granite masses placed, like Leighon Tor, on the slope forming the eastern side of Hound Tor Combe. Above it, on the E., is a group of hut circles, some of them being good examples, and on one of the outlying piles to the S.W. is a rocking, or logan, stone, about which, however, there is nothing very striking. Proceeding southward we pass the head of a rivulet which falls into the Becky at Long Pool, and just beyond this shall notice a small pound, near the branch of the tramway running to the deserted granite quarry below. Crossing the tramway we direct our steps to Holwell Tor, where the rock masses rise from an extensive clatter. The lower part of this is not more than about 100 feet above the Becky, and some 400 yards from it, but its higher part is twice that distance from the stream. In the combe, just below, is Holwell Cottage, and above it the farm of that name, while rising beyond this is Holwell Down, over which the Chagford road runs from Hemsworthy Gate to Hedge Barton. On the lower side of the clatter is a small pound and some hut circles.

On the hill about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Holwell Tor is Saddle Tor, and to this we shall now direct our steps, passing on our way another branch of the disused granite tramway. This was constructed by Mr. George Templer, of Stover, well known in the earlier part of the nineteenth century for his scholarly attainments and his prowess in the hunting field, as well as for his efforts to advance the interests of his county. His father having previously constructed a canal from Newton Abbot to Teigngrace, Mr. Templer conceived the idea of connecting it by means of a tramway with the moor. He carried out his project, and the road was opened in September, 1820. It is interesting as being the first line constructed in Devon. It was very skilfully planned, and the wagons ran on grooved blocks of granite, which took the place of rails. Over it was conveyed the stone quarried near Hey Tor, and which was shipped at Teignmouth. It was used for the arches of London Bridge, and also for the columns of the British Museum library, as well as in other important buildings. The quarries have, however, ceased to be worked for many years. [Hundred Years, Chap. III.]

Saddle Tor is the central of the three frontier piles that form such conspicuous objects when viewed from the neighbourhood of Kings-teignton, the others being Rippon Tor,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant in a S.W. direction, and Hey Tor,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. It overlooks the head of Hound Tor Combe, which extends to the foot of the hill on which Rippon Tor is placed, a distance of more than 2 m. above Leighon Bridge. Close to it a foot-path climbs over the down, cutting off a bend in the road, which here runs westward to Hemsworthy Gate, rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. away. Risdon speaks of this pile as "a noted place called Saddletor," from the hills near which he says the Loman, or as we now call it, the Lemon, "fetctheth her fountain." The nearest stream to the tor is the Sig, which rises on Bag Tor Down, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S. of it, and to this we shall now make our way. It falls into the Lemon (the springs of which are near Hey Tor) just below Sigford, and immediately after having received the waters of the Langworthy Brook.

Descending the tor we cross the road and presently come upon a track that branches from it further R. (T. 49), and this we shall follow L. It will lead us along the bank of the stream, which flows through a shallow hollow to Bag Tor Woods, but we desert it on nearing the tor these are named after, and make our way to the latter which we see on the L. There is nothing remarkable in the rocks themselves, but the spot is worth visiting for the picture of a retired border nook there presented. The stream is lost in the woods below, in one part of which is embosomed the ancient house called after the little tor, and the former home of the Fords. This is noticed in S. Ex. 81. On leaving Bag Tor we strike into a track running close to it, and following it N.W. shall be led over the side of Pinchaford Ball to the road under Hey Tor, from which we may readily reach the rocks.

This well-known tor, rendered by its shape and situation the most conspicuous on the moor, consists of two huge masses of rock rising from the highest part of the down, and attains an elevation of 1,491 feet. The name it bears may be the Anglo-Saxon *heah*, meaning *high*, or merely a corruption of the English word, as in the case of the tor above Tavy Cleave, referred to in our description of the Lydford district (Ex. 11). The moormen, in accordance with their habit of duplicating the final syllable when naming the tors, usually speak of it as "Heyter Tar," and as "Heyter Rocks," and this seems to have misled the writer of a brief account of the moor published many years ago. He calls it Arthur Tor, or Solar Tor, deriving, we suppose, the latter name from the former, and evidently regarding it as a place where sacrifices were once offered to the sun-god. We may smile at this, but derivations no less far-fetched are suggested to-day. We have the case of *Yr ynys Tor*, that is the island tor, offered as the probable original of the thirteenth century *Ernestorre*, a name which it is sought to fasten upon Yes Tor, for the reason that it looks like an island when its summit is seen rising from a seat of mist. The Hundred of Hey Tor apparently takes its name from these rocks, although they are not within it, and it has been said that the Hundred Court was formerly held there, but on what grounds we are unable to discover. In the north-eastern rock steps have been cut, and these are furnished with an iron hand-rail, so that it is easily ascended. Dr. Croker, writing in 1851, alludes to this as "the unsightly stair step to enable the enervated and pinguitudinous scions of humanity of this wonderful nineteenth century

to gain its summit." The twentieth century visitor is, of course, of quite a different stamp, but he will probably argue that since the steps are cut he may as well use them. On the summit is a rock-basin, but Nature has not been so happy in the formation of this one as in some she has scooped out on the moor. The view from this lofty station is magnificent, and if the visitor takes the trouble to climb to the top of the south-western pile there will be nothing to obstruct it. A great part of South Devon lies, as it were, at the feet of the beholder. The estuary of the Teign, with the Channel off Teignmouth, is plainly visible, a wide stretch of the latter, extending westward from Portland, being in view. Eastward the rock masses on the high land in the neighbourhood of Hennock and Bridford are seen, and moorward, with great Cosdon conspicuous to the N.W., the brown hills of the ancient forest.

From Hey Tor we shall descend to the Moorland Hotel. Close to this, southward, the road forks: L. to the Rock Hotel at Hey Tor Vale; R. towards Pinchaford Farm, bearing L. at the cross roads below it, to the Hey Tor Hotel and Ilsington. Bovey visitors will follow the road running eastward, reaching the confines of the moor in about 1 m.; thence down the hill with Colehays Plantation R. to Lower Down Cross and Five Wyches Cross, and on to the line near the station—a descent of nearly a thousand feet.

### Shorter Excursions.

S. Ex. 71.—*John Cann's Rocks, Bot Tor Rock, and Hennock*, 6 m. The visitor, starting from Bovey, will leave the town by the Moreton road, passing the old cross at Atway, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond will take the R. branch at the forks, and enter Lower Aller Lane. A few hundred yards further up turn R. at the cross-road, and soon the woods, on the verge of which John Cann's Rocks are situated R., will be reached. With these two traditions are connected. The road goes on to Furseleigh Cross, near which some Roman coins were found in 1837. This point may be reached from Bovey by turning into Fursleigh Lane immediately opposite to Cross Cottage. The rocks are less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the town.

For Bot Tor, or Bottor Rock, the visitor will follow the road running E. from Fursleigh Cross to Five Lanes,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., when the first turning L., close to the entrance to Hazelwood, must be taken. This is Beacon Lane, and it will lead him direct to the rock, which will be seen on the L. of the way. From this fine pile, the upper mass of which is sometimes referred to as Bottor's Nose, a wide and varied view is presented. On one side is seen the valley of the Teign, and Chudleigh, with the heights beyond; and on the other a grand view of the hills of Dartmoor. The rock attains an elevation of 800 feet, being about 700 feet above Bovey Bridge near the Dolphin Hotel. Quite close to Bot Tor farmhouse, just below, is a field called Brady Park, in which an interesting object once existed. It consisted of a small pound, 77 feet in diameter, with a wall about 3 feet high and 4 feet thick. The hollows in the base of Bot Tor Rock were formerly the haunt of the pixies, who have often been heard singing by the good folks of Hennock when making their way homeward late at night. As the rambler will

probably not choose such a time for his visit to the rock it is unlikely that he will be so favoured, but since the locality does not lack warblers of another kind it will doubtless be to the accompaniment of sounds not less pleasant that he will continue his walk to that village. This he will do by passing up Beacon Lane for a short distance, and entering a gate on the R., whence a path will lead him along the verge of a little common directly to it.

Hennock is a small village occupying a commanding situation, being only about 200 feet below Bot Tor. Running W. from Hennock is a road known as Bell Lane, and this we shall follow for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to Chericombe Head, where is a guide-post. We strike into Bowden Lane S., and shortly afterwards turning L. shall pass on by Lower Bowden to Furzeleigh Cross. Continuing straight down the hill with Furzeleigh Plantation R., we soon reach the forks, where we branch R. to Cross Cottage, or L. if our destination be that part of Bovey near the church.

S. Ex. 72.—*Shap Tor Rock*, 4 m. Passing up by Cross Cottage and Atway, we branch L. at the first forks, and speedily reach Woolley, where we bend R. to the first milestone, at King's Cross. Then, still following the Moreton Road R., for about 200 yards we arrive at a point where a road runs L. to Plumley, and a footpath R. to Northcombe. It is recorded that several stone circles once existed at Plumley, but they were destroyed about sixty years ago. They were in all probability hut circles, and during the work of demolition eight bronze celts were found, four of them being piled up against one of the stones and the others lying near. Following the footpath to Northcombe, we shall make our way from that farm by another path, which runs up the hill through Northcombe Copse to Shap Tor Down, which we reach immediately below the rock. The view from this is very fine, particularly towards Lustleigh. In returning from the down we may follow the road leading from its S.E. corner to Shap Tor Farm, and thence to the road under Higher Bowden, a point reached in the return from Hennock, as described in the preceding excursion, q.v. Here we turn R. to Furzeleigh Cross.

Shap Tor Rock is rather over 1 m. W. by N. of Bot Tor, and the two may be very well included in a single excursion. From Shap Tor the visitor will proceed as above, but when he reaches the road under Higher Bowden will turn L., then R., to Chericombe Head, and then make his way through Beacon Lane to the rock, which he will see R.

S. Ex. 73.—*Lustleigh and the Cleave, via Woolley and Ashwell Lane*, each  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. The visitor will leave the town as in the preceding excursion, but on reaching Woolley instead of turning R. will keep straight on through Ashwell Lane, which will lead him down to the railway. On crossing this he will find that the road forks, the L. branch being carried over the Bovey at Wilford Bridge and going up to the road under Lower Down (Ex. 23), the R. one running up the valley between the river and the railway. This we shall follow, and soon after shall cross the latter again. About this point we have on our L., but on the further side of the line, the confluence of the Wray and the Bovey. A little way on we turn L., and once more crossing the railway, shall reach Packsaddle Bridge, where we pass over the Wray and immediately turn R. From this point we proceed as in Ex. 23,

which gives directions for reaching either Lustleigh Cleave or the village.

(Visitors from Ilsington and the vicinity will reach this point as in Ex. 23.)

If the rambler from Bovey is making his way to Lustleigh Station he will not turn L. and cross the line to Packsaddle Bridge, but will keep straight on past Knowle, and under Knowle Wood, to Wrayland, just beyond which a road L. will lead him directly to it.

From Lustleigh several of the rock-piles on the high land eastward of the Wray may be conveniently visited. By crossing the railway at the bridge near the station and taking the second turning L. to Wrayland Barn he will find a footpath that will lead him up to the Moreton road under Tin Copse. It crosses the road, and running up through the copse, skirts Tinhill Copse, immediately above which is Bullaton Rock (1 m.). To reach Elsford Rock ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m.), the first turning L. after crossing the Lustleigh railway bridge must be followed. This will lead the rambler to Kelly Cross, where is a guide-post (R. 31, 46), and here he will turn L. Proceeding for a few score yards he will enter a lane R., and passing up through Greathill Copse, will soon reach Elsford Cottages. Beyond these is Elsford Farm, and the road running from Hennock via Poolmill Cross to Pepperdon Down. Elsford Rock is a short distance W. of the farm. Between Elsford Farm and Pepperdon Down a road runs R., i.e., N. by E., to Moor Barton. On this farm several interesting objects were discovered many years ago in a large cairn. On the tumulus being opened a kistvaen formed of six stones was exposed; there was also a copper spear head with two pegs by which it has been secured to its staff, a glass bead, and a small amulet of stone.

The road running S.E. from Kelly Cross goes on to Slade Cross,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., as described in R. 31, from which point Shap Tor Rock is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant, E. by S., but there is no direct path to it. A road goes N.E. from Slade Cross to Poolmill Cross,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., where the road to Hennock, 2 m., runs R.

S. Ex. 74.—*Sanduck and around the Combe (from Lustleigh), 4½ m.* The Bishop's Stone near Lustleigh Station has already been noticed (Ex. 23), and the probability of its having once served as the base of a cross remarked upon. In addition to this there are three other stone crosses in the parish [*Crosses*, Chap. XV.], and these the visitor may see on a walk round the combe that runs up towards Sanduck Grove. (The routes to Lustleigh from Bovey, Lud Gate, and Ilsington, have already been given). Leaving the village by the school we pass up by Mapstone and South Hill towards Higher Combe, 1 m., and immediately before reaching the road leading to it L., in a small field on the R. called Cross Park, is one of the objects referred to. It consists of the upper part of a granite cross, and this is fixed on a rock. Passing Higher Combe Cross (i.e., the branch road) L. and proceeding on our way for about a mile we reach Sanduck, where the road bends L. Here on the R. is another cross, which was discovered in 1901 in the foundations of a farmhouse burned down in that year, and soon after passing this we turn L., or southward. (About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the west is Barnecourt, which Risdon speaks of as Barn House Barton, "the ancient possession of a race of gentlemen so called.") Very soon we

pass North Harton R., and then the road forks. Here we take the R. branch, and skirt the combe on the opposite side of which we made our way upward from the village. Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the fork a private road branches R. to South Harton (Ex. 23), and here we shall find a cross built into the wall. It had been split to form a pair of gateposts, but the parts were fitted together and it was placed here for preservation. Still following the road we pass Hammerslake, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond turn L. to Ellimore, and descend to Lustleigh by the path by which we left it on setting out for the cleave (Ex. 23).

S. Ex. 75.—*Lustleigh Cleave from Hisley Wood upward (from Lustleigh)*, 5 m. (Visitors from Bovey may reach the lower end of the cleave as in Ex. 23 or S. Ex. 73, making their way first to the road between New Bridge and Packsaddle Bridge ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m.) as therein directed. The point for which visitors from the neighbourhood of Ilsington will first make is a footbridge on the Becky a short distance above its confluence with the Bovey. This they may reach either by way of Yarner Wells, as described in S. Ex. 78, or by Riddiford Down. In the latter case they will follow the instructions given in Ex. 23, but on reaching the guide-post at the bottom of the slope under Yarner Wood will make their way along the Lower Terrace Drive N.W. for a short distance, and then leave it for the track that runs straight on down the hill to the bridge. On crossing the Becky a path will lead them round Riddy Hill to the Bovey, and upward to the footbridge under Wanford Wood. This point in 2 m. from Yarner Wells).

Leaving Lustleigh at its southern end we shall make our way past Rudge to the cross road reached in Ex. 23 between New Bridge and the down, where we continue straight on to Lower Hisley. Higher Hisley is close by on the R., and a short distance in advance are Gardner Rocks, on the edge of Hisley Wood, which the rambler may visit, as this will only necessitate his retracing his steps a little way. From Lower Hisley a lane branches W. to Boveycombe, and this we shall now follow past that cottage to the common. We are here quite near to the Bovey at the lower end of the down, and shall follow the river upward to its higher end. Passing Hisley Wood we have on the L., but on the further bank of the river, and consequently in the parish of Manaton, as the latter here forms the boundary of Lustleigh, Woodash, some of the trees of which cover the lower slope of the down on this side as well. Above these is a footbridge, where a path coming down from near Hammerslake crosses the stream and climbs the hill to the hamlet of Water, a little over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Manaton. On the R., and high above us, is Sharp Tor. Passing up stream we skirt Wanford Wood, to which succeeds Water Cleave, where is another footbridge, just below the Foxes' Yard R. Still further up the stream is Horsham Cleave, with the curious Horsham Steps, described in Ex. 23, at the foot of the wooded steep. Above this is Neardon Cleave, between the woods of which and the grove at Foxworthy the Bovey comes down from Foxworthy Bridge. This and Little Silver, close by, are noticed in the excursion just named, and if we make our way to those objects we may regain the common by the road just above Foxworthy Farm. If we do not turn aside we leave the Bovey just above the steps, and passing Ravens' Tor on the slope shall strike northward, with the rocks sometimes called Foxworthy 'Tor L., to Hunters' Tor, barely  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.

distant. Having examined this, and the camp close by, to which Hunters' Path leads, we return by way of the summit of the ridge, keeping quite near to the enclosures L. Soon we pass the fine entrance to South Harton, where is a small plantation, and still keeping the wall of the enclosed lands L. shall make our way by Harton Chest R. to Sharp Tor (Ex. 23). Here we are near Hammerslake, which we passed on our way from the stone cross at the gate of the private road to South Harton to Ellimore (S. Ex. 74). Leaving Sharp Tor we make for a corner of the down below it to the N.E., where a short lane will take us to the road, where we turn R. and then L. to Ellimore, and descend to Lustleigh (S. Ex. 74, Ex. 23).

S. Ex. 76.—*Manaton via Pethybridge, Wanford Wood, and Water (from Lustleigh), 5 m.* The route to Manaton by way of Foxworthy Bridge has been sketched in Ex. 23, but there are more direct ways of reaching that village. The visitor may cross the Bovey at Horsham Steps and pass through Horsham Farm, or he may cross at the footbridge under the Foxes' Yard, and follow the path up through the wood either to the same farm R., or to Water L. But the most direct route is by way of the footbridge under Wanford Wood, and this he may reach by going through Ellimore as in Ex. 23, and taking the L. path on the S. side of Sharp Tor, which will lead him straight down the hill to it, or he may gain the same point by way of Pethybridge. If he decide upon the latter he will follow the lane to Ellimore for about a couple of hundred yards and then turn into a path L., which will lead him through the wood to the farm named. Just beyond this he will enter on a road, and turning R. will keep straight on to the common. (He is now at the point where he enters it in Ex. 23, if going direct to the Cleave from New Bridge). The path across the down is now followed to the bridge,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant, and immediately above the trees that are seen at the foot of the down a little in advance (S. Ex. 75). Crossing this the rambler will have the guidance of a path up the tree covered steep, Woodash being L. and Wanford R., and this will bring him to a narrow lane that will lead him to the hamlet of Water,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Manaton.

The return routes to Lustleigh are here briefly sketched. *Via Foxworthy Bridge.* Leaving the village green near its northern end we follow the road for a short distance and take the second turning R. This will lead to a footpath running across some fields, and down through a wood, where it is rather steep in places, to the Bovey, close to Little Silver, L. (Ex. 23). Cross Foxworthy Bridge and turn R. to Foxworthy Mill, just beyond which is a green path leading up the side of Lustleigh Cleave to Sharp Tor (S. Ex. 75). *Via Horsham Steps.* Leave the village as before, but take the first turning R. to Horsham Farm. From there a path runs down through the wood to the steps, and is continued on the further side of the Bovey up the side of the down to Sharp Tor (S. Ex. 75). *Via Footbridge below the Foxes' Yard.* To Horsham Farm as in the preceding; thence by the lane to Letchole Plantation, and down by the narrow path through Water Cleave to the bridge. The path then runs up the hill, with the Foxes' Yard L., to Sharp Tor (S. Ex. 75). To reach this bridge by way of Water the visitor will leave Manaton at the southern end of the green, where he will turn L. by Town Barton, again branching L. at Wrayland to the

hamlet, close to which is the plantation named above. *Via Footbridge below Wanford Wood.* To Water as above. Then, instead of taking the path through Letchhole Plantation, follow the lane down the hill to Wanford Wood, through which, with Woodash R., the footpath alluded to in the route just given from Lustleigh descends to the Bovey. On crossing that stream pass up the hill, and at the first forks of the green path take the R. branch and follow it to the road branching from the upper corner of the down. Take the second turning L. (only about 300 yards on) to Pethybridge, from which farm a path leads to Lustleigh as before described.

S. Ex. 77.—*Manaton to North Bovey, 2 m. distant; and Lustleigh to North Bovey, 3½ m. distant.* The reverse route (to Manaton) has already been given (S. Ex. 63). We leave the village near the northern end of the green, the rectory grounds being L. Soon after passing the second turning R., which leads down to Foxworthy Bridge, we reach a turning L., where a path runs across a little common below Manaton Rocks. We keep near to the enclosures R., and presently shall be led between these to a field, across which the path runs to the road at Langstone (R. 32, 53). This point may also be reached by following the path along the S. side of the churchyard to a road which will bring us to Langstone Cross (R. 32, 53), where we turn R.

From Langstone we proceed by the road to Lower Luckdon, to which place we may also make our way by another route. This, which will increase the distance a little, will take us down the hill from Manaton (instead of turning L. to the little common), near the bottom of which a lane runs R. to Little Silver and Foxworthy Bridge (Ex. 23), but we turn L. to Neadon. Here, on the L. of the way, we pass an ancient building now belonging to the farm, but which is said to have formerly been a chapel. On passing this we strike a road running R. to Barnecourt (S. Ex. 74) and Wray Barton, the latter being on the road from Bovey to Moreton (R. 31, 46). We turn neither R. nor L., but crossing the road enter on a path that will take us across three fields to Lower Luckdon. From this place we keep straight on, with Higher Luckdon L. (R. 32, 53) to Aller, soon after passing which we cross the Bovey, and reach our destination.

*Lustleigh to North Bovey via Little Silver, 3½ m. distant.* This is a most delightful ramble. The visitor will make his way by Ellimore to Sharp Tor, and thence down the side of the cleave to Foxworthy Bridge, as described in Ex. 23. Crossing the bridge he will turn R. by the charming Little Silver, whence a walk of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. along the edge of the wood will bring him to the road leading to Neadon, just where it comes down L. from Manaton. From this point the directions are given above.

In returning to Lustleigh the path from North Bovey past Neadon, as described in S. Ex. 63, must be followed, when the rambler, instead of turning up the hill R. to Manaton, will keep onward to Little Silver, from which point the way over the down to Sharp Tor and Ellimore is shown in S. Ex. 76, 75.

S. Ex. 78.—*Round Yarner Wood.* Bovey Station, 7½ m.; Lud Gate, 5½ m.; Ilsington, 6¾ m. A ramble round Yarner Wood and over Trendlebere Down, besides disclosing many other beauties, will

also afford a fine view of Lustleigh Cleave. In setting out from Bovey the road to the moor will be followed as in Ex. 23. On leaving the railway the visitor first passes Parke, where in the early years of the nineteenth century lived the noted George Hunt Clapp, better known as "Councillor" Clapp. We remember hearing many stories in our younger days of the strange sights said to have been witnessed in the grounds on moonlight nights. Horses without heads, the gossips said, used to haunt Parke Walk, and startling sounds were heard there by the frightened peasant. Continuing on our way upward we shall shortly pass Five Wyches Cross (Ex. 23), and Lower Down Cross (Ex. 24), where the Hey Tor tramroad, noticed in Ex. 25, crossed the road. On our L. is Colehays Plantation, which extends up the hill for about a mile, and soon after passing the head of this we enter upon the moor. Here we turn R. as in Ex. 25, our way lying along the higher side of Yarner, which we have already referred to as being the residence of Mr. Justice Eve. The judge is a lover of Dartmoor, and his great hobby is "caravaning" upon it. When on one of his tours amid its hills he lives and sleeps in the van, and does his own cooking. No better way of seeing the moor can be imagined, provided it is combined with bog-trotting.

Having reached Yarner Wells, to which point visitors around Ilsington will make their way as described in Ex. 25, we shall turn down the hill R., gradually leaving Yarner Wood as we descend. Here we have a good view of Lustleigh Cleave, beyond the wooded Hound Tor Ridge. Our way takes us over East Down, which extends to the Becky, Trendlebere Down being on our R. under Yarner Wood. On reaching the stream, which we should do not far from the camp on Water Hill (Ex. 23), marked by Water Rock, we turn R., and trace its course downward. On the further bank is Hound Tor Wood, the peninsulated ridge which it covers terminating in the heathery Riddy Hill. At the foot of this the Becky falls into the Bovey, the scene of their meeting being of the most romantic character. Just above it, on the further bank, are Gradner Rocks (S. Ex. 75) rising on the higher edge of Hisley Wood. Below this the united stream makes a bend and then flows on between Rudge Wood L., and Pullabrook Wood R., to its confluence with the Wray. Our path will take us past the weir to the verge of the last-named wood, and here we shall find ourselves on Reddiford Down, and just below the northern edge of Yarner Wood. This wood, as we have already seen, is situated on the side of a steep hill, and is in view from the railway between Bovey and Lustleigh. It is about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. from E. to W., and  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from N. to S. Yarner Copper Mine, now disused, is near its S.E. corner, and the grounds of Yarner are on its southern, or higher, side. One elevated point in it is known as Yarner Beacon. Following the road over Reddiford Down we shall soon reach the guide-post, and here the visitor who is returning to Bovey will continue onward to the forks, where he will either branch L. to Five Wyches Cross, or keep straight on along the edge of Lower Down, which is really a part of Reddiford Down, to Lower Down Cross, from either of which points he will turn L. down the hill (R. 25). If bound for Ilsington or neighbourhood the visitor will strike into a footpath at the guide-post running up over the down, which will bring him to the road near the higher end of Colehays Plantation. Passing the forks where a road branches R. to

Yarner, he will soon enter on the moor, and on reaching the guide-post the road L. must be taken for Ilsington. (In following this take either the first turning R., for Trumpetor and the Hey Tor Hotel, or the second R. at Narrowcombe for the village). For Lud Gate and the Moorland Hotel keep straight on with the common R.

S. Ex. 79.—*Becky Fall and Manaton; branch road to Leighon.* Bovey Station (to Fall and back), 9 m.; Lud Gate, 5 m.; Ilsington,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Manaton, 1 m. beyond the Becky. From Bovey the road to Lower Down Cross is followed as in Ex. 24 and R. 45. There turn R. into the Lower Terrace Drive, which, passing under Yarner Wood, leads direct to New Bridge, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. above the fall (Ex. 23). From Hey Tor Vale visitors simply follow the Higher Terrace Drive to Beckyford Bridge, which is only a short distance above New Bridge (Becky), while those from Ilsington, if not proceeding *via* Lud Gate, will follow the instructions given in Ex. 25, and reaching the down either by way of Trumpetor or Narrowcombe, will strike over it and join the drive at Yarner Wells. The Manaton road runs up the hill from the bridges over the Becky to the cross road between Water R. and Deal L., and passing Wrayland enters the village by Town Barton (*vide* Ex. 23). The name of the little river appears not only in the fall and the higher bridge, but also in Beckyford Farm, Becky Cottage, and in Beckhams, the latter being on the edge of Deal Copse, in which the fall is situated. Visitors will find the walk to Becky Fall by the Higher Terrace Drive, making the return by the Lower Drive, or *vice versa*, a very enjoyable one. A return route is given in Ex. 23.

*Leighon Bridge.* About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Yarner Wells a road branches westward from the Higher Terrace Drive, under Black Hill, and leads down through Leighon to the Becky, which it crosses at Leighon Bridge (R. 45). This, which is a clapper of one opening and furnished with parapets, is situated in the midst of charming surroundings. Just below it the road turns L. to Hound Tor Down (Ex. 24), and by following this for a short distance, and then turning R. at Great Hound Tor Farm, the rambler will be led past Southcott to Hayne Cross, from which point the return route by way of Becky Fall is given in Ex. 23. The homeward route direct from Leighon Bridge will be found at the end of R. 25. The bridge is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Yarner Wells by the road.

S. Ex. 80.—*Hey Tor, Pinchaford Ball, and Hey Tor Vale.* Bovey Station, 9 m.; Lud Gate,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Ilsington, over Pinchaford Ball  $3\frac{3}{4}$  m. Hey Tor is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Bovey Station, and is approached by the road described 'in Ex. 25 and S. Ex. 78, the points being Five Wyches Cross (take the L. fork); Lower Down Cross (straight up the hill, leaving the road running by the school R.); the forks nearly 1 m. further up the hill (take the L. branch, and the down will be reached rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on). The road now skirts this with the enclosures close on the L., and passing Shot Plantation, also on that side, reaches the turning L. to Hey Tor Vale. Here, at the Moorland Hotel, the Dartmoor coaches always stop to afford those who may desire to visit the tor an opportunity of doing so. A broad green path leads to the rocks from the road close to the hotel.

Visitors from Ilsington will reach this point by turning R. at the

cross  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of the Hey Tor Hotel, and passing up the hill, and taking the L. branch of the road at the forks above Pinchaford. (The R. branch also leads to it, by way of Hey Tor Vale). But a much shorter way to Hey Tor is to keep straight on instead of turning up the hill R. at the cross referred to, when a walk of a few hundred yards through a narrow stroll will bring the visitor to the common. From this point Hey Tor is only  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant, W.N.W.

For a description of the tor the visitor is referred to Ex. 25.

Descending the southern slope of the hill on which Hey Tor is situated, the road is speedily reached just where it makes a bend, and here a track runs from it southward (T. 49). This the rambler may follow to Bag Tor, the route being the reverse of that sketched in Ex. 25, but should he not wish to extend his walk that far he will see it as he crosses Pinchaford Ball. This he will do by leaving the track near some hut circles R., about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the road, and striking eastward. Below him R., in the little valley of the Sig, and near the boggy spot called Bag Tor Mires, is the tor. He also looks down upon Mill Wood, one part of which is known as Crownley Parks, and upon Hinds Ground near it. Descending the eastern side of the ball he enters the narrow stroll below Pinchaford Farm mentioned *ante*. From this point the Ilsington road turns down R., while a footpath L. will lead to the Pinchaford lane, which comes from the road running up to the common. Just above this is the junction before referred to, and if the visitor chooses to bear R. he will pass through Hey Tor Vale, as we have already stated. When the Hey Tor quarries ceased to be worked the season of prosperity enjoyed by this little hamlet came to an end. But of late there has been some renewal of this, though not, as formerly in consequence of stone being sent away from the neighbourhood, but because of the fact that it is there. The Rock Hotel at Hey Tor Vale bears a name that will constantly remind the visitor of this. The down is within  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. of the hamlet.

S. Ex. 81.—*Ilsington*. (2½ m. distant from Bovey Tracey Station; with route to Ashburton, 5½ m. further). Occupying an elevated and pleasant situation on the border of the moor, and placed in the midst of delightful scenery, the village of Ilsington has naturally grown into favour with the visitor, and since the opening of the Hey Tor Hotel has become a much frequented summer resort. From Bovey Tracey Station the rambler will make his way towards the town, having Pludda on his R., but only for a short distance. Immediately opposite to the Dolphin Hotel the Newton Abbot road runs S., and into this he will turn. Passing the first branch, a few score yards on R., he will strike into the second on that side, and will very soon reach Ashburton Bridge, where the road is carried over the railway. Just beyond this it forks, and here he will take the R. branch and keep straight on. The turning R. leads to Challabrook, and near this the Hey Tor tram-road (Ex. 25) crossed the road. The next junction is known as Brimley Corner, where again the R. branch must be followed past Chapel Cross, which is marked by a guide-post, and where a road comes down from Chapel Farm and Lower Down Cross (Ex. 24). William Ellis, who several years ago wrote an interesting account of various places in the neighbourhood of Bovey, says that the farm obtained its name from the former existence of a chapel here. He states that all

traces of the building had been lost, but that during the formation of a leat some stones were found that were thought to have belonged to it. The chapel stood in a lovely little dell through which ran a sparkling stream. Passing upward through Brimley Lane the rambler will speedily arrive at Lower Brimley, beyond which he will pass through Higher Brimley, and reach Woodhouse Cross, where is a guide-post. Here a road comes down R. from Narrowcombe and the common, and descends the hill towards the Newton Abbot road. The rambler will turn neither R. nor L., but continue onward, passing Woodhouse R., to the village.

The village of Ilsington is small, and like Widecombe, Manaton, Shaugh, and others in the Dartmoor borderland, was once the scene of a remarkable accident, not, however, resulting from the warring of the elements, but from the banging of a gate! On the 17th September, 1639, the day being Tuesday, a woman passed through the west gate of the churchyard, over which was an old building that had not long before been converted into a schoolroom, and in which a number of scholars were gathered. The gate was a heavy one, and the woman, letting it swing back to close of itself, went on her way. She had not gone half-a-dozen yards before the building collapsed, but strange to relate not only were no lives lost, but the injuries sustained were mostly trifling. An account of the accident may be seen in the register, together with the names of those who were in the room at the time.

The church is chiefly Perpendicular. In the churchyard is the seventeenth century tomb of Thomas Ford, of Sigford, on which is a curious Latin chronogram, giving the date of his death. The Fords were settled very early in the parish, one of that family being John Ford, the dramatist, and the friend and acquaintance of most of the poets of his day.

In the latter part of the seventeenth century Bag Tor was in the possession of Sir Henry Ford, who was knighted by Charles II., in whose reign he was twice Secretary of State in Ireland. The property was sold by him to Mr. Tothill, from whose descendants it was afterwards purchased by John, first Lord Ashburton. East of the church, and on the R. of the road leading up to Narrowcombe, are some vestiges of a manor house built by Sir Henry, but which, it is said, was never completed. On a part of the site of this the present school is built. The manor of Ilsington was early in the possession of the Beaumonts, and afterwards belonged to the Dinhams. At the death, in 1477, of John, Lord Dynham, it was divided among his representatives, and portions of it passing through the Arundells afterwards became the property of the Fords. The Act for enclosing Ilsington Common was obtained in 1809.

According to Vicars the Royalist soldiers after their defeat at Bovey, in January, 1646, retreated to Ilsington, and sought refuge in the church. They were, however, pursued by Cromwell, and were forced to quit the building.

Natives of this parish were formerly known as Ilsington Grey-backs. In 1727 William Candy left some lands to trustees, with directions that the rents should be applied to the purchase of clothes for men who had served their apprenticeship to farmers in the parish. The clothes were made of a cloth known as Parson's Grey, the shirt being of a rough material called Dowlais, and so the name of Greyback

became attached to an Ilsington man. A copy of Mr. Candy's will hangs in Ilsington Church. In 1663 Miss Jane Ford, of Bag Tor, left property to be invested for the purpose of schooling poor children, and in 1804 Mr. Hale, of Iingsdon, left money for the benefit of the aged poor.

Bag Tor is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Ilsington, and is situated on the road running to Ashburton *via* Halshanger Cross. From the church the way lies past the vicarage and the hotel to Loothorn Cross, where the L., or S., road is followed to the Wesleyan burial ground, which point may also be reached by the lower road from the village. This must be kept L., and also Honeywell, which is passed immediately after. The next point is Burchanger Cross, where the Bag Tor road runs straight on, and then winds round a little piece of common below Burchanger Brake, a wood being on the other side of it. Very speedily it drops down to the Lemon, which it crosses in one of the most delightful nooks on the borders of Dartmoor. [Gems, Chap. XI.] Immediately below the bridge is the picturesque Bag Tor Mill, and above it the little river comes down through a wooded hollow from the moor. (A path running through Crownley Parks will lead the rambler thither, and he will reach it below Pinchaford Ball, with Bag Tor L. S. Ex. 80).  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. further on, where a road branches L. to Sigford, is the entrance to Bag Tor R., which is pleasantly placed on the edge of Bag Tor Wood. This point is also reached in our rambles from Ashburton, q.v. The road to that town runs on to Westabrook, where it crosses the Sig, and thence to the hamlet of Mountsland, just beyond which it is carried over the Langworthy Brook. Then passing Halshanger R., it reaches Halshanger Cross, where the Newton Abbot road comes up L., or from the E., and goes on by Cold East Cross to Pudsham Down and Cockingford Mill, and from there over Bittleford Down to Cator and Grendon Cot, and the forest. (These places are noticed in Ex. 26, R. 42 and Ex. 44). The Ashburton road runs on to Rushlade and down to the Yeo, which river it reaches under Whiddon Wood, and bears it company through the narrow valley nearly to Rewlea Cross. From this point the road goes southward to the town, the centre of which is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant. (For a fuller notice of the route from Rushlade onward see the end of Ex. 26; the return route will be found partly at the beginning of Ex. 26, and partly in S. Ex. 89.)

The roads from Ilsington to the moor have all been noticed in our excursions. One runs W. from Loothorn Cross direct to Pinchaford Ball (S. Ex. 80); another branches from this shortly before the down is reached, and goes northward to Lud Gate; a third goes N. from Loothorn Cross through Trumpetor and Middlecott or Smallacombe, being joined at the former place by one leaving the village by the lane opposite to the vicarage, and running up by the Sanctuary field; and a fourth goes E. of the church northward to Narrowcombe.

The route to Bovey Tracey having already been given the reverse way it is only necessary to name the chief points here. The road runs eastward from the village, S. of the church, to Woodhouse Cross, and thence to Higher Brimley and Lower Brimley. From this hamlet the direction is E. by N. The town is reached soon after the railway is crossed at Ashburton Bridge.

S. Ex. 82.—*Widecombe-in-the-Moor via Hemsworthy Gate.* (7 m. from Bovey Tracey Station). The way lies up the hill to Hey Tor Down and the turning L. to Hey Tor Vale ( $3\frac{1}{4}$  m.), and is described in Ex. 25, and S. Ex. 78. The road is then followed to Hemsworthy Gate, and this part of the route may be reached by visitors from Ilsington either by way of the first-named place or by striking westward over Pinchaford Ball (S. Ex. 80). The road first ascends towards Hey Tor, the rocks rising on the R. (Ex. 25, S. Ex. 80), on the L. being Pinchaford Ball, with Bag Tor in the hollow below it, near Mill Wood (Ex. 25). It then leads us over some level ground, where the turf is exceptionally smooth, towards Saddle Tor, over which we may make our way by the footpath that we shall see branching R. (Ex. 25). In advance is the lofty Rippon Tor, noticed in Ex. 26, and as we draw nearer to it we shall not fail to observe the reave running down the N.W. side of the hill. Eastward the view of the country beyond Newton and Kingsteignton, with the estuary of the Teign, is remarkably fine. Between Saddle Tor and Hemsworthy Gate the road skirts the head of Hound Tor Combe. Hound Tor itself is 2 m. distant, but the long combe to which it gives name, and which extends upward from near Becky Fall, has its termination here. Standing near the scanty vestiges of the old Hemsworthy Mine the rambler is within a very short distance of the source of the Becky, and as he looks down the combe, beyond the lower end of which the fine hill forming the eastern side of Lustleigh Cleave is seen to great advantage, his view embraces the whole course of the stream. Immediately below, on the R. bank of it, is Hemsworthy Farm, and beyond this, lining the whole side of the valley, the grey clatters that have fallen from the tors that rise half-ruined from the slope, while above them Hey Tor, placed in a more secure situation, proudly uplifts his solid granite bosses, as yet hardly touched by the hand of Time. On the L., or W., side of the Combe is Holwell, with Haresfoot Mires below it, and beyond it, on Holwell Down, the little pile sometimes known as Holwell Rocks. Passing onward we arrive at Hemsworthy Gate, or White Gate, as it is often called locally, where we find ourselves on the Chagford and Ashburton road (R. 32, Ex. 26). About 200 yards N. of the gate, and quite close to the wall is a hut circle bearing the name of Seven Lords' Land, being, it is said, a bondmark of seven manors.

Hey Tor.

Saddle Tor.



Smallacombe Rocks. Holwell Tor.

FROM HOLWELL DOWN, LOOKING E.

[Visitors in the Ilsington neighbourhood will find the walk round Hound Tor Combe a very enjoyable one. Making their way first to Hemsworthy Gate they will follow the Chagford road over Holwell Down as in R. 53, and on reaching the entrance to Hedge Barton strike R. across the common to Hound Tor. Then descending the hill on the N. side of the tor the road to Leighon and Yarner Wells will be struck, and this must then be followed as described in R. 25. The walk may be extended from Hound Tor Farm so as to embrace Becky Fall and Becky Ford, from which latter spot the Higher Terrace Drive runs to the Wells and Lud Brook. *Vide end of Ex. 23, 24.*]

Rippon Tor.

The Nutcracker.



FROM HOLWELL DOWN, LOOKING S.

The rambler will turn R., or N.W. at Hemsworthy Gate ( $\frac{5}{4}$  m. from Bovey Station), and following the Chagford road for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will branch L. at the guide-post. A walk of a few score yards will bring him to the top of Widecombe Hill, where Tom Pearse found his old grey mare "makin' er weel," and here a wide view of the forest is disclosed. More than 500 feet below, but as yet unseen, and a mile away, is the East Webburn. It flows almost in the shadow of the Cathedral of the Moor, which we now begin to discern, and is there spanned by Northway Bridge. To this the rambler will now descend, and having crossed it will speedily enter Widecombe Town.

Hameldon.

Chinkwell  
Tor.Bel  
Tor.Bonehill  
Rocks.

FROM HALF-WAY UP WIDECOMBE HILL, LOOKING N.

## Excursions from Widecombe.

S. Ex. 83.—*Bonehill Down*, 4 m.; the way by Widecombe Hill is further. Having in our notice of Hameldon and the Widecombe valley described the tors on the down that form the E. side of the northern end of the latter, it will not now be necessary to do more than describe the routes by which they may be reached from the village. Of these there is a choice of three. The rambler may either make his way by the road up the valley to the turning below Isaford; he may go by Widecombe Hill; or by the farms that take their name from the down on which the tors stand. The first route will lead him by the manor house,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the village, and soon after passing this he will cross the Webburn.\* Beyond the bridge are Stouts Cottages, near which a path runs through the plantation R. to the common, and further up is the entrance to Bag Park, L. Above this, on the same side, a road leads to Pitton, and 300 yards on is the turning R. to the down under Honeybag Tor. From this point, which is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Widecombe Green, the route will be as sketched in the Extension to R. 24. This will take the rambler along the range of tors to the road S. of Bel Tor, by which he may make his way through Bonehill, R., direct to the village; or he may continue S. to Bonehill Rocks, and thence steering the same course reach Widecombe Hill.

The second route will take him across the green on the N. side of the church to Northway Bridge, and thence up Widecombe Hill for rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., when having passed the enclosures he will turn L. over the common to Bonehill Rocks,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. off. Just beyond this group the road comes up L. from the Bonehill farms, and he will find himself on the route now to be described.

The third route, which is the best, will lead the rambler to Northway Bridge, but instead of passing over it he will turn L. and cross the Webburn a little higher up. From this point the verge of Bonehill Down is  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant, and 400 feet above the stream. The road runs up through the Bonehill farms, and on the common being reached the rambler will be close to the rocks bearing that name. The road R. goes on to the top of Widecombe Hill; the track running straight up over the down goes to the corner of Hedge Down where it joins the Chagford road; the footpath L. of it leads to Hedge Barton; and the track L. runs to the turning below Isaford, with a branch path to the road near Stouts Cottages.

\* This is Widecombe Town Manor. There are five others in the parish: Natsworthy, Dunstone, Blackslade, Blackaton, and Spitchwick.

## EXCURSIONS FROM WIDECOMBE.

Our way will now lie N. to Bel Tor, on which there are some rock basins, and thence to Sharp Tor, Chinkwell, and Honeybag, the ramble being the reverse of that described in Ex. 24. On the R. of the visitor, as he proceeds northward, is Hedge Barton; on the L. the Widecombe valley; and before him, and beyond the range he is traversing, the commons of Heytree, Vogwell, and Cripdon (Ex. 24), backed by the lofty East Down (S. Ex. 61).

From Honeybag Tor the rambler will descend the western side of the hill to the track, and so reach the lane at the turning below Isaford (Ex. 24). [From this point Higher Natsworthy is  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. distant; Berry Pound (*via* Natsworthy) under  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m.; Heytree Cross,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m.] Turning L. when the lane is reached the visitor will make his way down the valley to the village.

[The visitor may extend this excursion by going up the valley to Higher Natsworthy, and returning by way of the side of Hameldon, taking care to avoid coal mires. A path runs from Natsworthy in a south-easterly direction nearly to Hameldon Beacon, and this the rambler will follow for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., when he will leave it and strike S. His way will now lie along the slope of the great hill, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. above Bagpark Plantation. A walk of rather over 1 m. will bring him to the enclosures of Kingshead, with those belonging to the manor house below on the L. A path across one of them will lead to the steep lane that comes down from Kingshead, by which he will descend to the road  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Widecombe Church. This extension will add nearly 2 m. to the ramble.]

S. Ex. 84.—*Hameldon Beacon and Natsworthy,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. WITH EXTENSION to Hameldon Cross and Grim's Pound, 7 m.* Leaving the green by the road running up the valley, the rambler will pass the first turning L. (the old Church Way, T. 76) and take the next on that side, which is only a very short distance further on. This is the steep lane by which the visitor was directed to descend from the common in the preceding excursion. Passing upward the path there referred to will be seen R., and turning into this, with Kingshead Farm higher up on the L., he will cross the field and reach the down. From this point Hameldon Beacon is about 1 m. distant, or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. from the village. The course to be steered is N.W. by N., and when the rambler is nearing the summit of the hill he will come in sight of the wall of Blackaton Down. This he will keep L., and follow it to the Beacon, which has been already described in the section on Hameldon.

[If it be desired to extend this ramble to Hameldon Cross, or Grim's Pound, the wall must be followed to Two Barrows, whence the course will be northward to Single Barrow and Broad Barrow, from which last-named tumulus Hameldon Cross is only a very short distance N.W. The whole of these objects, and their bearings, are noticed in the section just referred to. Hameldon Tor is N.N.W. of the cross, and less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. away. From this pile the rambler will look down upon Grim's Pound, which, by this route, the most direct one, is 3 m. from Widecombe. A description of Grim's Pound is given in Ex. 22, and its surroundings are also noticed in S. Ex. 59, 60, and 62. From the pound the return to Widecombe will be by way of Berry Pound and Natsworthy, the way being described in S. Ex. 60.]

To return from Hameldon Beacon *via* Natsworthy the rambler must steer N.E. by E., and should strike the path mentioned in the preceding excursion as running from that place towards the beacon. At Natsworthy the road to the village is reached. (Extension Ex. 24. The road below it is described the reverse way at the beginning of S. Ex. 83).

S. Ex. 85.—*Blackaton Down, Challacombe, Grendon Bridge, Lower Blackaton, Langworthy*, 6 m. Our way will first take us over the ridge southward of Hameldon Beacon to the top of Gore Hill, to which point we shall have the guidance of the Church Way (T. 76). This ancient path commences at what is now known as Church Lane, the first turning on the L. from the road leading up the Widecombe valley from the green. We follow it to the down, the point where it emerges on this being appropriately named Church Lane Head, and thence northwestward across the turf as in R. 42, C. q.v. Passing the Hatchwell branch L., and Kingshead Corner R., we speedily reach Gore Hill. Here we leave the old path to the forest, and follow the one that goes on to Challacombe (T. 47). We do not therefore descend Gore Hill, but continue our north-westerly course, with the enclosures L. Very soon we enter upon Blackaton Down, the wall of which comes down the steep side of the common from Hameldon Beacon. Our path is a well-defined one, and runs along the higher part of the small irregular enclosures that here creep up the steep from the valley of the Broadford Brook.  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. on we reach another wall of Blackaton Down—the one that descends from Two Barrows—and here our path runs into the road that comes up from Lower Hatchwell. Following this northward for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. we reach Challacombe ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Widecombe), which consists of a farm and a couple of cottages. Headland Warren House, mentioned in Ex. 22, is 1 m. further up the valley, but we do not now make our way thither. We turn here, but instead of retracing our steps to Lower Hatchwell, we shall follow the road that we see running down by the side of the West Webburn, and which leads onward to Grendon and Cator (Ex. 44). The lonely house on the R. as we proceed is Soussons (Ex. 44), and soon after passing this we reach Grendon Bridge. This is the road by which the coaches from Widecombe pass up the valley, the one running up from Lower Hatchwell not being suited to such traffic. We are now again on the line of the old Church Way, and shall follow it eastward from the bridge, as in R. 5 C, over Hill Head and past Lower Blackaton and Lower Hatchwell, to the point where it begins to climb Gore Hill. There we leave it, and following the road R. for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the second turning L. at Langworthy, shall speedily regain the common  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Church Lane Head. We shall reach the path there by striking a little S. of W.

S. Ex. 86.—*Dunstone Down, Rowden Down, and Jordan Ball*,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. Leaving the village by the Ponsworthy road we take the first turning R. and pass up the hill towards Southcombe, our way lying over the track already described (T. 52). We reach Dunstone Down at Southcombe Gate, and shall find our way over it clearly marked by the path. A little way on we leave the broader track and take the footpath leading down the slope to the stroll by which Rowden Down is approached, the direction being W.S.W. (R. 42 B.) On

**EXCURSIONS FROM WIDECOMBE.**

reaching the latter we shall make our way to the summit, which is known as Rowden Ball. Here is a small tor, and near to it is a dilapidated cairn, much overgrown, with a hollow sunk in the centre, from which stones appear to have been taken. It seems to have been formerly surrounded by a circle of stones and a low bank, but only parts of these now remain. Joined to it is an enclosure of an oblong form. Near the northern edge of the down is Rowden Farm, on the road leading to Lower Cator; from its western verge a track leads to Broadford Farm, on the brook of that name, which falls into the West Webburn immediately below it; and from its southern side the path which we deserted in order to examine this despoiled cairn runs down between the enclosures to the little common known as Jordan Ball. The air of semi-wildness worn by this part of the moor is very charming. Heatherly downs delightfully intermingle with little irregularly shaped crofts, many of them very ancient, and which speak of a time when the early farm settlers forced their way into these upland valleys. To the path last mentioned we now direct our steps, and descend the side of Jordan Ball to the Webburn, just before reaching which we pass the entrance to East Shallowford. Built into the wall on the L. of this is a large stone of the kind formerly used for hanging gates, and of which several examples have been noticed. (Ex. 20, S. Ex. 59). In its centre the circular hollow that received the stanchion will be seen. Just below is the shallow ford on the West Webburn which gives name to this farm and to the neighbouring one on the further bank of the stream. Here there is a clapper of three openings, and crossing over this we pass up to West Shallowford, immediately above which the road from Ponsworthy, Pound's Gate, and Dartmeet comes L. from Lock's Gate Cross, and runs R. to Cator and the forest (R. 42 B).

Descending to the stream we shall again cross it, and make our way down by the L. bank to Jordan Mill, and the hamlet of that name.\* From near this a footpath runs across some fields to Bittleford Farm, where is a fine old granite doorway bearing the date 1706. Having reached this we shall follow the road that leads from it to Bittleford Down, and striking N. shall make for our next point, Wind Tor, which is rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. Here we turn E. and cross the turf to Higher Dunstone, where we reach the Widcombe road. We turn L. towards the village, but a few score yards on shall leave the road at the turning R. in order to visit Lower Dunstone, which is close by. On the green is a large block of stone having a hollow on its surface, and in this, it is said, the chief rents were deposited when the manor courts were held here in the open air, as was formerly the case. The late Mr. Robert Dymond, the owner of the manor, revived this old usage in 1878. In this connection it is interesting to notice a custom formerly observed in some parts of Sweden by the peasantry of throwing small pieces of money into the rock basins as they passed them, and in which it has been thought a relic of the superstitious veneration in which they were held might be traced. The manor of

\* If we adopt the moorman's pronunciation of the name of the hill in the northern part of the moor, already visited—Kennon, near Throwleigh (Ex. 18, 19)—it is possible to agree with the statement that Canaan and Jordan are both to be found on Dartmoor.

Dunstone was bestowed by the Conqueror on Ralph de Pomeraie, and remained in that family for at least two centuries. Returning to the road we shall make our way back to Widecombe.

S. Ex. 87.—*Venton, Blackslade Down, Foale's Arrishes, Tor Hill, and the Ruggle Stone*, 4 m. Opposite to the Old Inn a road runs easterly along the south side of the open space in front of the churchyard gate. This we shall now follow, and crossing the Webburn at Venton Bridge, just below which is a manorial bondmark called Hennaford Stone, shall reach the Ruffle Stone Inn, and may if we choose make our way direct to the logan on the verge of the common near by from which it takes its name. Or we may turn L. at Venton, a little further on, and keeping close to the enclosures, on that hand, be speedily led to it. (Another route is by way of Widecombe Hill: about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Northway Bridge the limits of the enclosed land on the R. will be reached, and here the rambler must turn in that direction, again turning R. at the second corner, when he will see the rock just below him; it is only  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the road). As our present excursion will bring us to this object we defer our remarks concerning it, and shall therefore pass through Venton, where on the little green we shall notice an upping-stock formed by steps cut in a large granite boulder. and follow the road to Chittleford. Here are two very good examples of the granite porches of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, one exhibiting the date 1686 and the other 1741. Passing up the hill we very shortly reach a gate L. where a path runs across a field to a lane leading past Blackslade, the seat of the late Mr. Robert Dymond, to the commons. (The road goes on by Scobitor to Pudsham Down, and crossing the Ruddycleave Water runs up the side of Buckland Common to Cold East Cross, R. 32, Ex. 26). On passing Blackslade, which appears in Domesday as Blacheslach, the down of that name is reached at the foot of the stroll below Tunhill Rocks (R. 5 B). The gate of Tunhill Farm is in the further corner of the stroll, and running from it is the old track we have already described (T. 51). This we now follow up the hill R., and in rather less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. shall reach a fine example of a kistvaen, discovered several years ago buried beneath a cairn. It will be seen to the L. of the track. Here it was that the wicked Jan Reynolds once entered into a compact with a stranger, who turned out to be the Prince of Darkness, and failing to keep it became his victim. Seven years after the meeting Jan was discovered indulging in a nap in Widecombe Church on a Sunday afternoon, and it was the appearance of Satan there to claim him that occasioned the great thunder-storm which we have already spoken of. Jan was borne away on the fiend's black steed, when some cards that he held in his hand were dropped on the moor, and are now to be seen, in a transformed state, near the old Vitifer Mines. (Ex. 22).

We strike S. from the kistvaen to Whittaburrow, a cairn which we see on the hill a short distance off. The E. side of this hill descends to the Ruddycleave Water, here generally called the Blackslade Water, and which rises near by in Blackslade Mire. This part of the moor is noticed in Ex. 26. Returning to the Tunhill road, we cross it, leaving the kistvaen R., and make our way to Tunhill Rocks, a rather striking pile rising on the verge of the down. Thence we shall direct our steps eastward to a cluster of hut circles, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, and in a line

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between us and Hemsworthy Gate, to which they are near. Some of these ruined dwellings are placed within small rectangular enclosures formed by low reaves, and bearing the name of Foale's Arrishes. These remains are partly covered with vegetation, and there is little about them likely to detain the ordinary visitor, but they possess an interest for the antiquary. Although this example of huts within enclosures such as these is not altogether unique on Dartmoor, the arrangement is one that is not usually seen. (A description of the common between the slope on which these remains are situated and Rippon Tor, S.E., as well as of the tor itself, will be found in Ex. 26).

A short distance northward of Foale's Arrishes is Top Tor, or, as the natives call it, Tapter. That part of the common immediately around it is usually referred to as Tor Hill, the other piles that contribute to the appropriateness of the name being Pil Tor, W. of the Arrishes, and Hollow Tor, to the N.W. of that, but they are neither of them very large. Hollow Tor, a little northward of which is a bond-mark known as Shovel Stone, should be the last to be visited, and from there the rambler will strike W. down the hill to the Ruffle Stone,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. When we draw near the walls of the enclosures we bear a little to the R., and speedily arrive at that object. The Ruffle Stone is a huge mass of granite resting on the rocks in such a manner as to slightly "log," though it used to be said that it could only be set in motion with the aid of the church key. It is about 22 feet in length and 16 feet wide. Close to it is another "logging" stone, but one of a different character. It resembles a large slab, and is not more than half the length of the other. The weight of the larger rock has been computed to be about 115 tons.

Having brought our wanderings over this part of the Widecombe Commons to a close we shall now return to the village, which we may do either by way of the Ruffle Stone Inn, or by turning northward to the road and descending to Northway Bridge.

Ponsworthy, Pound's Gate, and other places near the southern end of the Widecombe valley, are noticed in our Ashburton excursions.

### Roads out of Widecombe.

*To Natsworthy and Heytree Cross : S. Ex. 83. This is also the Chagford, North Bovey, and Moreton road.*

*To Bonehill Down and Swine Down Gate : S. Ex. 83 ; R. 53.*

*To Bovey Tracey, via Widecombe Hill and Hemsworthy Gate : R. 5 A.*

*To Ashburton, via Cold East Cross : S. Ex. 87, to Chittleford ; up the hill to Pudsham Down ; descend to the Ruddycleave Water ; up the hill to Cold East Cross ; turn R. as in R. 32.*

*To Buckland : S. road from the village for 1 m. ; turn L. at guide-post to Cockingford ; up the hill to Stone Cross ; turn R. ; straight on.*

*To Ponsworthy and Dartmeet : S. road from the village ; turn neither R. nor L. Ponsworthy is reached in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. ; thence as in R. 42 A.*

*To Grendon Cot (branches to Cator) : S. road from the village for rather over 1 m., passing the turning to Cockingford. Then turn R. to Bittleford Down, and keep R. At guide-post continue N. for 1 m. when turn L. to Lower Hatchwell ; thence over Hill Head.*

### Routes from Bovey Tracey.

R. 39.—To Ashburton, S.W. Leverton, New Inn, Bickington,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. Reverse, R. 54. The route via Ilsington is given in S. Ex. 81; this is about 8 m.

This is a road route. The pedestrian will cross the railway at Ashburton Bridge, as in S. Ex. 81, and will bear R. at the first junction.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. on, at Brimley Corner, he will strike L., the direction of the road now being about S. When it begins to bend westward he must leave in for another running L. through Leverton. About 1 m. beyond this the Exeter and Plymouth highway will be reached, the New Inn standing near the junction of the roads. Here the visitor will turn R., and passing through Bickington,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W., will reach Ashburton in another 3 m.

R. 40.—To Brent and Ivybridge, S.W. B.,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  m. I.,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  m. For points and directions *vide* R. 39, 47. Reverse, R. 65.

R. 41.—To Plympton and Shaugh, S.W. by W. P., 27 m. S., *via* Ivybridge and Cornwood, 29 m. For points and directions *vide* R. 39, 47, 55, 56, 57. Reverse, R. 72.

The first part of this route is the same as R. 39, 47, which give directions for reaching Ivybridge. Thence the road to Plympton is described in R. 55, and that to Shaugh in R. 57. Should the visitor desire to make his way over the moor to Shaugh, he may either branch off at Buckfastleigh or Brent. In the former case he must consult R. 48, which gives the necessary directions, while R. 56 describes the way from Brent. Distance from Buckfastleigh across the moor to Shaugh, *via* Shipley and Three Barrows,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  m.; from Brent, *via* Owley and Harford, 12 m.

R. 42.—To Princetown, W. by S. (A) Hey Tor Down, Hemsworthy Gate, Newhouse, Pudsham Down, Cockingford, Ponsworthy, Dartmeet, Hexworthy, Swincombe. P.T.,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  m.; T.B.,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  m. T.B., *via* Dunnabridge from Dartmeet, 16 m. (B) Hemsworthy Gate, Blackslade, Dunstone Down, Rowden Down, West Shallowford, Bellaford Bridge, Cherry Brook, Two Bridges. T.B.,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  m. P.T., 17 m. (C) Hemsworthy Gate, Widecombe, Gore Hill, Grendon Bridge, Runnage, Post Bridge, Two Bridges. T.B.,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  m.; P.T., 18 m. Reverse, R. 5. Route A is the most convenient.

[Objects : Exs. 25, 26, 27, 44, 46, 5.]

(A) Ascending the hill leading to the commons from the station, we pass Five Wyches Cross and Lower Down Cross (Ex. 24), and 2 m. from our starting-point shall reach Hey Tor Down (S. Ex. 82, Ex. 25). Still following the road we make our way past Shot Plantation and Lud Gate (L.), afterwards leaving Hey Tor and Saddle Tor R. 2 m. from Lud Gate we reach Hemsworthy Gate,  $5\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Bovey Station. Passing through this we turn L., following the road with Rippon Tor L., and when just beyond the ruined enclosures of

Newhouse, R. (Ex. 26), shall leave the road and strike S.W. down the side of Yarde to the bridge over the Ruddycleave Water. Crossing this we mount the hill, having enclosures L. and Pudsham Down R. At the first fork we keep L.; at the second we bear R., and descend to Cockingford Mill on the East Webburn. This stream we cross, and pass up the hill to the Widecombe (R.) and Ponsworthy (L.) road. (This point may be reached from Hemsworthy Gate by way of Blackslade, as in B. *post*, the rambler turning L. on striking the Widecombe and Ponsworthy road, which he will do immediately after passing through Lower Dunstone). We turn L., and in about 1 m. shall arrive at Ponsworthy. Here a steep lane branches R., and making our way up this we presently reach Sherberton Common at Lock's Gate Cross. Here two lanes runs northward, and the road also forks towards the south. We take the right hand one of the latter branches, and make our way over the common, with some enclosures R., our course being a little S. of W. At Ouldsbroom Cross, 1 m. from Ponsworthy, a road runs R. to Sherwell and another L. to Pound's Gate, but we keep straight on, and descend the long steep hill to Dartmeet. Passing up Hart Hole Lane we soon reach a gate, L., where the road runs down to Huccaby, and goes on to Holne. From this point we may either continue straight on, and follow the road past Dunnabridge Pound (Ex. 42) and Prince Hall Lodge (Ex. 4) to Two Bridges, or make our way across the moor. The rambler bound for Two Bridges should keep to the road, but if Princetown be his destination he will shorten the distance by about 1½ m. by adopting the latter course. If he decide upon this he will pass through the gate, and just beyond Huccaby (this is R., St. Raphael's Chapel L.), will cross the West Dart at Hexworthy Bridge, and climb the hill to the Forest Inn. The way then lies up over the bit of common by the side of that hostelry to the Gobbet and Sherburton road.\* Here he will turn R., and proceeding for about 300 yards will enter the gate in the corner of the enclosure L. From this point we shall follow the Princetown and Hexworthy track (T. 8), which is well defined throughout. It will first lead us to another gate, and thence down the side of the hill, with the enclosures called the Arrishes R., to Swincombe Ford and the Fairy Bridge (Ex. 4).

[Two Bridges is reached from this point by passing through the short lane leading from the further bank of the stream to Swincombe Newtake, and following the somewhat imperfectly marked track that runs over it in a north-westerly direction to Prince Hall Bridge (T. 10). There the West Dart is crossed, and the road leading by the house to the Dartmeet and Two Bridges highway is followed. There turn L., and in 1 m. the last-named place will be reached.]

Crossing the stream we turn L. and follow the track W. immediately in front of Swincombe farmhouse (T. 8), and speedily reach Tor Royal Newtake, or the same point may be gained by passing at the back of the house. Hence the way lies by Cholake Head, the Crock of Gold, Bull Park, and Tor Royal Lodge, as in Ex. 4. The distance from Hexworthy to Princetown by this route is 4½ m.

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\* This leads to the forest holding noticed in Ex. 42, which is not connected with the common named above.

(B) To Hemsworthy Gate as in A. Thence the visitor will strike W. by S. across the common to Pil Tor,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., passing Foale's Arrishes (S. Ex. 87) on the way. These he will leave L. From the tor he will make his way to Tunhill Rocks,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W.S.W., and thence down the narrow stroll below. In the left hand bottom corner of this is the road leading to Blackslade, which is close by; the road in the corner R. goes to Tunhill Farm, also quite near. Passing in front of Blackslade we shall make our way down the path through the fields to the lane, and descend to Chittleford. Here we turn L., and almost immediately afterwards R., and  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. on cross the East Webburn at Dunstone Bridge, thence passing through the hamlet of Lower Dunstone (S. Ex. 86), to the Widecombe and Ponsworthy road. (If it is now desired to follow route A, the rambler will turn L., and in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will find himself at the head of the road coming up L. from Cockingford Mill, from which point the directions given in that route must be followed). Turning L. we proceed southward for about 100 yards, and then take the turning R. to Higher Dunstone, on the verge of Dunstone Down. Striking across the common in a westerly direction, and passing close to Wind Tor, we gain the road running up towards Lower Blackaton in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m., and follow it N.W. We pass the first turning L., where a lane leads to Dockwell and Jordan Mill, but turn down the next on that side, which is a stroll extending to Rowden Down (S. Ex. 86). We keep close to the walls on the L. and shortly, when near the southern extremity of the little common, pass into a lane between some enclosures and follow it down the side of Jordan Ball to the clapper on the West Webburn (T. 52). Crossing this we pass up by West Shallowford to the road running along the foot of Corn Down, and leading from Lock's Gate Cross above Ponsworthy, L., to Cator and Bellaford Bridge R. (Ex. 44). We cross it and climb the hill, our course being a little N. of W. Descending the W. side of the ridge we strike the Walla Brook about midway between Babeny L. and Riddon R. Should the stream be in flood we shall have to make our way to one or other of those places in order to cross it, but usually this can be easily done at the point we have reached. On gaining the R. bank we are in the forest, and have now to pass over Riddon Bridge to Bellaford Bridge,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. (If we cross at Riddon our course will be N.W. by W.; if at Babeny our way will lie between the newtakes to the southern part of the ridge, and thence N.N.W., with the East Dart not far below us L.; the course from the point on the bank of the stream first reached is N.W.) Bellaford Bridge is on the old Lich Path (T. 18), and on reaching it we follow that track to the Princetown road. It will lead us up by Bellaford Farm and across the side of Lakehead Hill, with the wall of that extensive newtake close to us on the L. throughout the way. On reaching the road at Higher Cherry Brook Bridge we turn L. and follow the instructions given in R. 35. Two Bridges is 2 m., and Princetown  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant.

(C) Our first point will be Hemsworthy Gate, *vide* A. Here we bear R. to the forks of the road a short distance on, where is a guide-post. We take the L. branch as in S. Ex. 82, and shortly after commence the descent of the steep Widecombe Hill. At its foot we cross the East Webburn and speedily find ourselves in the village, which is rather over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Hemsworthy. From the church the road

running N.W. must be followed for a short distance, when the rambler will turn L., and make his way up the steep lane to the common (S. Ex. 85). He is now on the ancient Church Way (T. 76), which runs from Widecombe to Post Bridge. On the common it is a plainly marked green track, the direction of which is about N.W. Soon after leaving the fields R. there is a branch L. to Hatchwell, but this must not be followed. In  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the point at which we enter on the down we reach the corner of an enclosure, and keeping this L. shall turn into a narrow way between rough granite walls, 150 yards further on. This is Gore Hill, and it will lead us down to Lower Hatchwell, where we cross the Bradford Brook. We now climb the steep ascent by Lower Blackaton, and passing Hill Head, descend to Grendon Bridge. Crossing the West Webburn we follow the road westward to Ephraim's Pinch (Ex. 44), and thence to Runnage Bridge, where the Walla Brook is crossed. The road then goes on to the Princetown highway, nearly 1 m. distant, where we turn L. The directions given in R. 35 must now be followed. Two Bridges is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the point where we emerge on the high road, and Princetown 6 m.

R. 43.—To Tavistock, W. by S. R. 42 A, Bovey to Princetown, and R. 1, Princetown to Tavistock, from this route. 25 m. Reverse, R. 11.

From Hemsworthy Gate to the junction of the Cockingford and Ponsworthy roads the route through Blackslade may be followed, see R. 42 B. If the rambler does not cross the moor by way of Hexworthy, but follows the road from the gate above Huccaby to Two Bridges, he will, of course, not touch Princetown, but will go direct from the last-named place to Rundle Stone. For directions as to this see R. 36 A.

R. 44.—To Lydford, W. by N. (A) *Via SHALLOWFORD AND BELLA-FORD BRIDGE*: Lower Down Cross, Hemsworthy Gate, Blackslade, Dunstone Down, Rowden Down, Shallowford, Bellaford Bridge, Cherry Brook, Longaford Tor, Bear Down Newtake Wall, Lich Path, White Barrow, Hill Bridge, Down Lane, 24 m. (B) *Via WIDECOMBE AND POST BRIDGE*: Hemsworthy as above, Widecombe, Gore Hill, Grendon Bridge, Runnage Bridge, Post Bridge, Princetown Road, Arch Tor, Longaford Tor, thence as above, 25 m. Reverse, R. 18.

[Objects: Exs. 25, 26, 27, 44, 46, 5, 10.]

(A) *Via Shallowford*. This route is identical with R. 42 B, as far as the bridge over the Cherry Brook on the road between Post Bridge and Two Bridges. Here the rambler will strike north-westward across the head of Gawler Bottom, with the Cherry Brook and the old Powder Mills L. When he has passed the latter, that is to say, when about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the road, he will turn towards Longaford, which rises prominently on the ridge to the W., his direction now being W.N.W. In  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the brook the tor will be reached. The rambler must leave it L. and descend to the West Dart, which he will strike at Wistman's Wood Ford, or where the Foxholes Water joins the river, just above it (Ex. 5). Here the wall of Bear Down Newtake is carried over the hill in front, running westerly from this point. The rambler will follow it, keeping it L., and in about 1 m. will reach Travellers' Ford, on the Cowsic (Ex. 5). He will now find himself on the Lich Path (T. 18), which he will follow W. In  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. the Prison Leat is reached,

and just beyond it Sandy Ford, on the Walkham. The old path then ascends the western side of the shallow valley, where it is joined by the peat track from Walkham Head to Peter Tavy (T. 16), and then passes close to White Barrow, which is seen L. (Ex. 8, Extension). When the hill is crossed the peat track bends L., and the traces of the Lich Path are lost for a time. The rambler should now strike a little N. of W. down the slope to the wall of Longbetor Newtake, when this must be kept L. Very soon he will enter the stroll formed by this and other enclosures of Longbetor Farm on one hand, and those belonging to Bagga Tor Farm on the other. He will cross this stroll, and keeping the wall of South Common (the largest of the Bagga Tor enclosures) R., will find himself again on the line of the Lich Path (on this part of which the later Black Lane was formed, T. 19). His course is now due W. In less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. he will reach the end of the stroll, and passing through a gate will still follow the track, with Bagga Tor R. Ere he has gone far he will notice another gate L., where he will leave the down, and make his way by the road for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. nearly to Wapsworthy Bridge (Ex. 8), where he will enter a gate R. and follow a path across three fields to Hill Bridge, on the Tavy. From this point the way to Lydford by Hill Town, Yard Gate, Forstall Cross, and Down Lane has already been described (R. 2 A).

(Another route from the common near Bagga Tor may be followed, but not when the Tavy is in flood, as the river has to be crossed at some stepping-stones. Instead of passing through the gate on the L. to the road, the rambler should still follow the ancient track as it runs down the hill, past Brousen Tor Farm to the Bagga Tor Brook, which he will cross at Bagga Tor Clapper (Ex. 10), and then leaving the path, which runs on to Standon Farm, will strike N.W. to Willsworthy Ford, or Standon Steps, as the crossing-place is more often called,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant, and less than that above Cataloo Steps, where the Bagga Tor Brook falls into the Tavy. Having gained the further bank of that river, the rambler will pass upward to Willsworthy, as in Ex. 10. The path to Forstall Cross from Willsworthy Pound by way of Willsworthy Brook and Yellowmead is noticed in that excursion.

(B) *Via Widecombe and Post Bridge.* This route is the same as R. 42 C to the ninth milestone from Moreton, on the Princetown road, and rather over  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Post Bridge.\* Here the rambler will leave the road and strike nearly due W. towards Arch Tor, the small mass of rock seen on the hillside across Gawler Bottom, and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant. Just below it is the Powder Mills Leat, which must be followed downward to a footbridge. Crossing this, and still steering W., the way lies over Cherry Brook and the ridge beyond it, to a point a little northward of Longaford Tor. When this is reached the rambler will be on the line described *ante*.

\* In R. 42 C. the tourist is referred to R. 35. He may either join the latter as described in R. 42 C., that is, by following the road from Runnage Bridge to the highway, or he may turn L. when about half way to the latter and reach it at the point where the Wesleyan Chapel stands. By so doing he will be led past Lower Meripit, one of the ancient forest tenements.

**ROUTE 45. BOVEY TRACEY TO OKEHAMPTON.**

R. 45.—To Okehampton and Belstone, N.W. by W. The more direct route is through Chagford; see R. 46 and R. 38. 22 m. Reverse, R. 24 and R. 31. The following is the moor route:

*Lower Down Cross, Trendlebere Down, Leighon, Swine Down Gate, Heytree Cross, Heathercombe, Hookney Down, Bovey River, South Teign, Teign Clapper, White Moor Stone, Taw Plain.* Distance about the same. Reverse, R. 25.

[Objects: Ex. 24 to 17.]

From Bovey Station the rambler will pass up the hill as in the preceding routes, but will turn R. at Lower Down Cross (rather less than 1 m.), from which point to Swine Down he will find the route described in Ex. 24. It will lead him by the Lower Terrace Drive past Yarner Wood, beyond which he will cross the slope of Black Hill to the Leighon road, and descend to the bridge below that place; thence, passing Great Hound Tor Farm, he will climb the hill to Hound Tor Down, and be led direct to Swine Down Gate (R. 25, 32, 53). He will enter this and take the road L., which will lead him along the edge of Swine Down and Cridpon Down to Heytree Cross,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the gate. Here he must turn L., and passing Heytree will, in about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., reach a short lane leading by Heathercombe (S. Ex. 62) to the common. From this point the course will be W.N.W. for over 3 m., which will bring him to the head of Metheral Bogs on the common lands belonging to the parish of Chagford. First he will reach King Tor (Ex. 22),  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Heathercombe, and passing over Hookney Down will cross the Challacombe and Grendon road 1 m. further on, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  m., beyond this the Princetown and Moreton road, whence he will descend to the Bovey river,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. below (Ex. 21). About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond this the rambler will find himself at the head of the Metheral Bogs. Keeping this mire on his R. he will strike due N., and in another  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. will reach the road running out to Fernworthy, which farm is in full view (Ex. 20), and which will bring him to the South Teign. (See R. 25 for remarks on crossing this stream). At the corner of the Fernworthy enclosures eastward of the house he will take a northerly course, and passing the Long Stone, 1 m., and keeping Kes Tor R., will make his way to Batworthy Corner, his course being due N. from the menhir. Here he is near the antiquities noticed in Ex. 20. His course is now N.N.W. to the North Teign, the path being close to the wall of Batworthy enclosures, which are R. Crossing the river at Teign Clapper, close to the holed Stone (Ex. 19), he will make his way over Scorhill Down past the stone circle which he will see on the slope before him. Hence a walk of 2 m., the course being N.W., will bring him to the shoulder of Kennon Hill, near White Moor Stone, from which point the route is the same as R. 38 B, which will also show the way to Belstone.

If bound for Sticklepath the rambler will steer N. from Scorhill Circle, and make his way over the down, with Berry Down Stroll and Creber R. (Ex. 19), to the detached newtake on the side of Buttern Hill,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. He will pass below this, and bearing a little to the R., will soon reach Ensworthy, where he will strike the road running on to Shilstone Tor (Ex. 18), from which point the directions given in R. 38 A must be followed.

R. 46.—To Moreton and Chagford, N.W. *Atway, Woolley, King's Cross, Slade, Kelly, Wray Cleave, Wray Barton, Hayne, Moreton*; thence to Chagford. To Moreton,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m.; to Chagford, 11 m. Reverse, R. 31.

This is a road route. The way lies by Cross Cottage and Atway, as in S. Ex. 72. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond the latter the visitor will bear L. to Woolley, whence he will keep R. to King's Cross, 1 m. from Bovey. Still bearing R. his next point will be Slade, where is a guide-post, and another further on at Kelly Cross. From this point he will bear N.W., and will soon reach a milestone marking  $3\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Bovey and from Moreton, where a road turns L. to Lustleigh. The way still runs N.W., with Wray Cleave R.

(For the route between Moreton and Chagford see beginning of *Chagford District*).

CRANMERE. See Routes from Chagford *ante*. Those from Post Bridge, or the Warren House Inn, which are reached by R. 42 C., are given in Part I.

[Near the southern entrance to the church at Moreton, and in the main thoroughfare, stand the remains of an old cross on an octagonal pedestal of granite. On this base also once flourished the pollard elm, so long the pride of Moreton, known as the Cross Tree, and also, from its shape, as the Punch Bowl Tree. Its branches were so trained that they formed a huge bowl, as it were, and a table and seats being fixed within this, many convivial meetings were held there. The one-time president of these gatherings was a certain Red-post Fynes, so called from his custom of painting the gate-posts of his fields a bright red. He is stated in Mrs. Bray's *Tamar and Tavy*, published in 1836, to have been unable to spell even the commonest words. Nevertheless, he once accomplished the feat of spelling the word "usage," and, what is more, he did it without employing a single letter belonging to it. He rendered it "yowzitch." Mr. E. Tozer, who wrote under the name of Tickler, has fastened this story upon a certain John Roberts, who once lived on the moor, and unfortunately this has been repeated. A floor was laid in the Punch Bowl Tree, so that the worthies who gathered there were made as comfortable as though they had been in the "best inn's best room." But it was not only talk that was engaged in. Sometimes dancing took place there on summer evenings. At that time Moreton had a sort of fashionable season, and many guests used to stay at the London Inn, near by. These reached the tree by ascending some steps in the garden of the inn to the top of the wall, from which a bridge was laid to the leafy ballroom. There was sufficient room for a goodly company and for six couples to dance. Some French officers, who in the early part of the nineteenth century lived at Moreton as prisoners of war on parole, formed a band, and used to play on the tree. It will be remembered that the elm figures as the Dancing Tree in Blackmore's *Christowell*. Much injury was done to it by a storm in October, 1891, and at another time by a passing circus wagon, and in September, 1903, a heavy gale completed the wreck, the tree being then blown down.]

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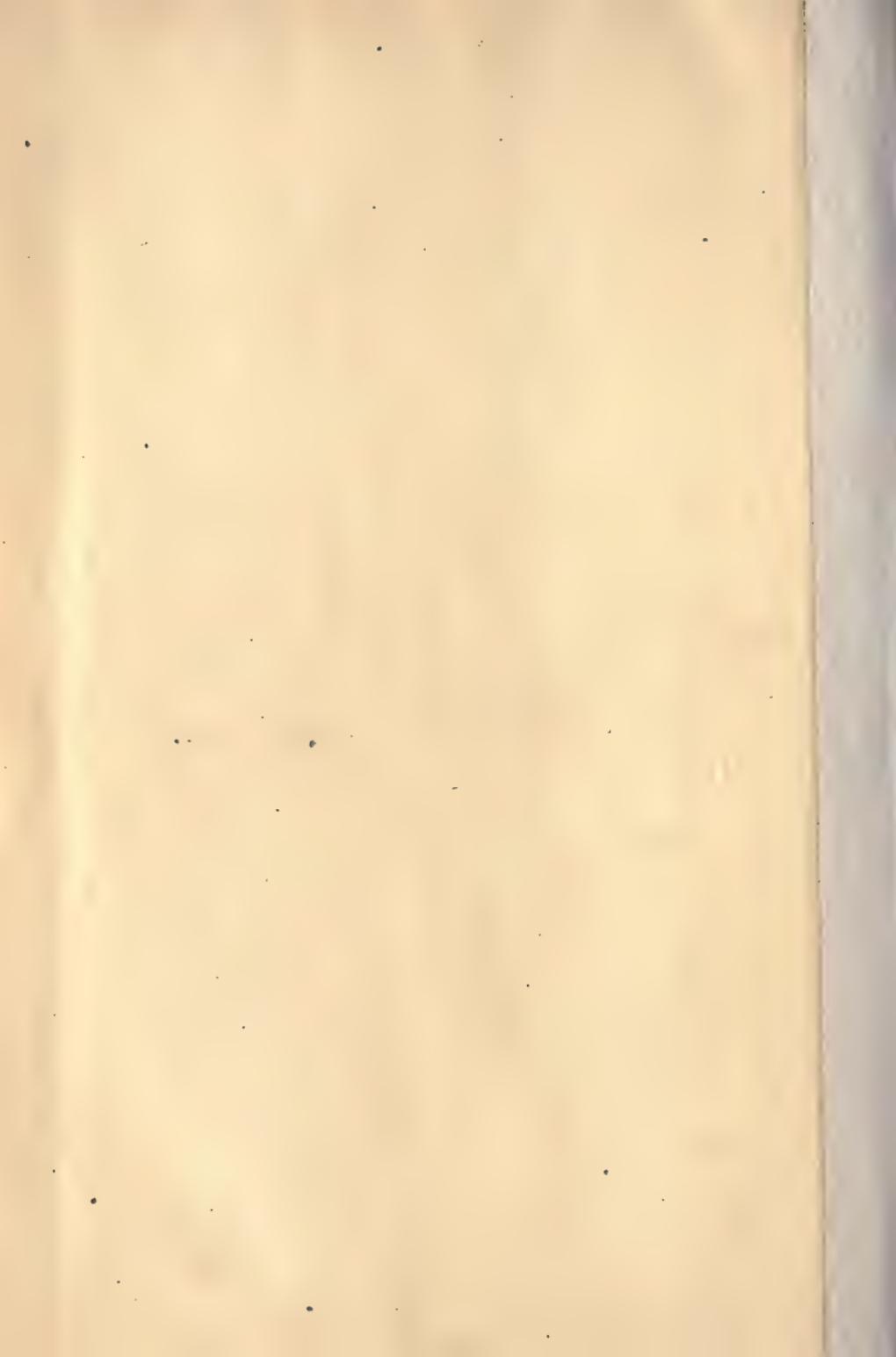
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